

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## "Trust in me"

Boys like this 4-year-old, Pa Dibba, will benefit this year from Vacation Bible Schools set up by missionaries and the Baptist churches with which they work. Pa, the son of a veterinarian in Farafenni, the Gambia, believes the magic amulets hanging around the neck will fend off bad fortune. Like other children worldwide, he will know nothing different until someone tells him how much Jesus loves him. Then he will understand the words of Jesus, "Trust in me." (FMB) PHOTO By Warren

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## W. P. Bobo: From braying mules to red bow tie

By Gayle S. Garrett

For six weeks a man lay tethered to assorted intensive care paraphernalia in Baptist Hospital. Not an enviable situation for the most vigorous of adolescents, but for a man of over 80 years? Grim prospects. But W. P. Bobo summarizes his ordeal with characteristic aplomb, "I felt the Lord still had things for me to do around here."

Bob, who will celebrate his 85th birthday in December, recently returned from four full days of "going, sowing, and glowing" at the Senior Adult Convention in Fort Worth. Along with his wife, Doris, and other Heavenly Sunlight Singers, he sang in three concerts, toured the seminary, attended all sessions of the convention, and made sure the bus driver didn't get lost! Eighty-four years of living on this crazy, mixed-up planet, and he's still singing and smiling. How can that be? Where did the trail begin?

First impressions, happily in this case, are not necessarily permanent ones. Bobo (as he is known to everyone) was seven or so when his family attended a Sacred Harp "sing." (As he described this scene, I hastily

examined the strangely shaped notes and mournful poetry of the 1870 edition of the Sacred Harp Songbook). The Bobos bounced down the dirt roads until they approached the stand of trees where all the wagons and mules were parked for the day. Just then little Bobo scrooched-up his face and said, "Those mules sure are a-braying." His mother good-naturedly responded, "On no Pervy, that's not the mules you are hearing, that's the sing!"

A few short years passed, the style of sacred music changed, and singing schools became standard summer-time fare for the rural community. The rudiments of music (pitch, rhythm, harmony) were taught by the Sol-Fa method of reading shaped notes. This is how Bobo (and some folks still today) receive his music background.

In the parlor of the Bobo home in Choctaw County stood one of the family's most prized possessions, an ornately carved pump organ. As the soft light from a "genuine" Aladdin kerosene lamp spread from its shelf beside the music rack, sister Audie Bell would begin to play. Soon the

three brothers, Ernest, Curtis, and Pervy, would gather 'round to blend their voices with hers in four-part harmony. "We didn't waste much time or money at the picture show when I was a youngster. We'd rather pass the time singing," Bobo remarked proudly. The local churches were familiar with the Bobo family quartet and frequently invited them to provide the special music for their revivals.

As we chatted, Bobo shifted in his chair and leaned a little closer as he recalled his high school boys' quartet being asked to sing at the funeral of a certain Mr. Knight. It seems the preacher insisted that they sing "No Night There." "I surely did feel awkward about singing those words, but I supposed folks just thought it was our boyish ignorance," he chuckled.

Mississippi College became Bobo's home in 1927 while he studied for a degree in education. Seven miles due east at the graveled intersection of Eureka and W. Capitol in Jackson, 50 Christians were starting a new church. Even in those early years, MC was the resource for talented young Christians, and Bobo gladly respond-

ed to Parkway's request for a song leader. With three branches forming the roof of the brush arbor and logs used for seating, the infant Parkway fellowship sang out the old favorites: "Tis so Sweet," "The Old Rugged Cross," "What a Friend." With a nod of his head for emphasis, Bobo said, "But we didn't drag out the tempo, and I remember my favorite solo was 'His Eye is on the Sparrow.' And it's still a good one!" In 1930 Mr. Bobo began his career in education, eventually marrying Doris Thompson, a pretty, bright, English teacher. They returned to Jackson and Parkway in 1958 with their three children, Bill, Bob, and Diane. He has served as the Administrator of Mississippi Crippled Children's Hospital and a counselor for Vocation Rehabilitation, retiring in 1971. Of course, a Christian never retires from serving the Lord. So as Parkway celebrated its 60th anniversary on May 31, her very first music minister was wearing the trademark red bow tie of the Heavenly Sunlight Singers, leading out with the rest of the choir

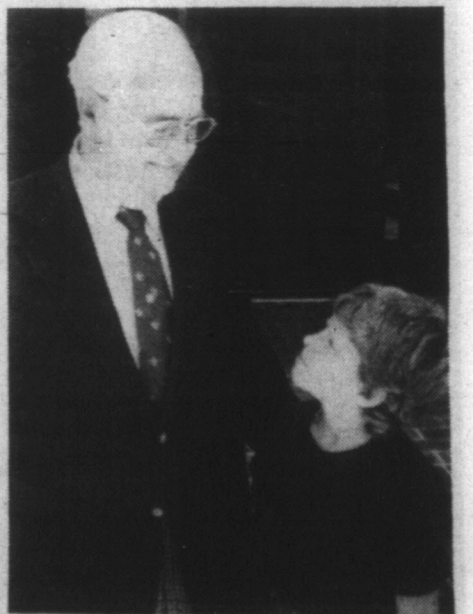
anything else God has created," he declared. "Jesus defined one soul as of greater value than the entire created universe." Southern Baptists have committed themselves to Bold Mission Thrust, a program through which the 14.6-million-member denomination is seeking to do its part in sharing the gospel with all people by A.D. 2000. Through the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptists have about 3,800 foreign missionaries at work in 110 countries worldwide and plan to have 5,600 missionaries in 125 countries by the end of the century. He reiterated the board has a policy that it will not pay ransom if any of its representatives are taken hostage — "not because we do not value the individual taken hostage but because we do value all of our missionaries so much that we would not dare to jeopardize all the rest in trying to save one." With more of the world's nations becoming hostile toward Christianity, the mission executive said, "I can't help but believe there will be some tough times ahead — that we will face crises we've never faced." When and if such times come, Parks said, his prayer is that "we can be prepared to react from a sound biblical basis and from a solid policy posture, rather than being driven to react from an emotional level that might have serious repercussions in all that we try to do." Missions research indicates there are between 60 and 70 nations inaccessible to traditional missionary approaches today, he said. If trends continue, he added, by the year 2000 there could be as many as 100 nations hostile toward the gospel. Their populations would include about 83 percent of the unreached world that Southern Baptists are committed to reach. "We're talking about penetrating hostile societies with the gospel," he continued. "We cannot do that unless we are willing to take risks and to be responsible for running those risks." In the same board meeting, trustees voted to study the need for a vice president of communications and public relations, elected three new area directors, appointed 32 new missionaries and reappointed two, and honored Winston Crawley, who is retiring after 40 years' service.

Bob Stanley writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

in the 8:30 p.m. service.

God bless you, W. P. Bobo, and Parkway for your place in his Kingdom.

Gayle S. Garrett is a member of Parkway Church, Jackson, and director of the Heavenly Sunlight Singers.



W. P. Bobo and Jamey Nettles sing a duet in the musical, "Side by Side," at Parkway Church, Jackson.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Gamaliel was right

The biggest question on everyone's mind as the Southern Baptist Convention approaches, beginning June 16, is will there be a movement toward healing this year.

The ingredients for healing are in evidence. The peace committee, which has been studying the controversy for two years, will report its findings and its recommendations at this convention. That should be a positive influence.

The inerrancy conference should have been productive. About 1,000 Baptists from both sides of the confusion were present at the conference to examine inerrancy and to try to find a common ground if possible. That should have been a positive influence.

When this paper tries to be objective, both sides claim that we are on the other side. Actually, we have studiously avoided taking a side in spite of what anyone might think. We have been critical of both sides at times, and we have sought to point out the positive aspects of both sides at times.

There are many who feel that there is no need for healing at this point. They feel that the battle is over and that the losers may either join up or be left out. It is not in an effort to take sides, however, to point out that the vote at the convention, which doesn't necessarily reflect the feelings of Southern Baptists as a whole, has been a 55-45 split; and that could be

reversed at any convention. It's all according to who goes.

As has been said over and over, Southern Baptists are pretty well in agreement on the nature of the Bible; and it seems a shame that so few as in the numbers who attend the conventions could cause so much turmoil. But that is the way the Southern Baptist system works.

There doesn't seem to be much hope that there will be healing. Neither side seems to have an inclination to give up any ground, so the likelihood is that things will remain about as they are.

That is the dark side of the picture. The optimistic side is that the peace committee is going to report. If ever Southern Baptists have rallied around a cause, this is a time to do so. We don't know what the peace committee's report will be. We do know, however, that it constitutes about the only hope Southern Baptists have at this point. This is a committee that has been elected by the convention. Actually, it had its beginning when Charles Pickering was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, for it was Pickering who laid the groundwork for what eventually became the peace committee. He is vice-chairman of the committee.

To say we will wait until the committee reports and then determine if we can support its report is to miss the point of how to go about finding a healing force. The only approach that will

lead toward healing is to say we will support the peace committee's report regardless of its nature.

The fearful situation is that Southern Baptists are not given to that sort of commitment. We want to see and reserve support until we have seen.

But this is a critical and decisive time for Southern Baptists. We must find a rallying point. The peace committee was intended to be that point. Can we afford to let it be so? Do we have any other choice?

The next thing we had better do is pray.

The doctor of law, Gamaliel, had what should be sound advice for all of us at this point. He cautioned the council that was considering the fate of the apostles that the council should let the apostles alone for fear that otherwise the council might be fighting against God. So it could be with the peace committee.

The peace committee may indeed have been given to us by the Lord. The seminary presidents' Glorieta Statement that was made to the peace committee may have come from the Lord. The inerrancy conference that came out of the Glorieta Statement may have been given by the Lord.

If these things are not from the Lord, they won't amount to anything. If they are from the Lord, they are our way out of our problems.

We had better give them a chance.

"NOW LET'S SEE IF I GOT THIS RIGHT—ON THE LEFT WE HAVE THE MODERATELY CONSERVATIVE LIBERALS, ON THE RIGHT THE DEVOUTLY CONSERVATIVES FOR THE FUNDAMENTALS, AND IN BETWEEN WE HAVE THE UNAFFILIATED FENCE—MAINSTREAM NON-PARTISANS!"



All of this is predicated on having faith in the peace committee. It is possible, of course, that the committee may not be able to come up with a substantive report. We will have to trust that such will not be the case. Even if that were to happen, however, we wouldn't be any worse off. If the committee's report has substance, let's give it a chance. If it doesn't have substance, there won't be anything to give a chance to.

So Gamaliel's position continues to be our best approach to the matter. If there is anything there to try, let's try it. If it is from the Lord, it will work.

It is hard to imagine that the peace committee, knowing the members of it and knowing the diversity of it, would not come up with something that would give us guidance. After all, we have been praying for the committee; and surely the Lord has been guiding it.

### The Mississippi Mission Guest opinion . . .

## Our Baptist colleges: "By their fruits . . ."

By Chester Swor

Appraised from any number of points of view, our Mississippi Baptist colleges deserve our high admiration and strong support; but by the standard of Matthew 7:16, "You shall know them by their fruits," our colleges deserve the citation, "WELL DONE"! The alumnae and alumni of our colleges, including Clarke College, now a division of Mississippi College, continue to reflect immense credit upon our colleges for superlatively fine preparation of mind and heart during their college years.

The inspiring "fruit" of each college could fill volumes of true-life successes of its graduates in an amazing number of careers; but in view of space limitations, one outstanding graduate of each college will be presented; and readers will understand that these "samples of success" could be multiplied almost limitlessly. We shall list the colleges in alphabetical order; Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, William Carey College.

### Blue Mountain College

Now in its 114th year of uninterrupted higher education, the college had as its founding purpose the preparation of young women for Christian home-making, because in 1873 marriage and home making constituted the principal career for young women. But as increasing new doors of career opportunity opened for women, the college, while never neglecting to prepare its students for Christian home making, has enlarged and enriched its curriculum and student life to prepare its graduates splendidly for graduate school and careers beyond. Just one illustration of the many who could be cited as typical of Blue Mountain's excellent preparation of students in character strength and pre-professional excellence is Laura Fisher.

At the completion of high school, Laura was already thinking of law as a possible career. President and Mrs. Harold Fisher would have honored her choice of other colleges for her undergraduate years; but, after a

survey of several other schools of outstanding reputation for her pre-law requirements, Laura concluded that Blue Mountain College could provide as thorough liberal arts background for eventual law school as she needed. Let's listen to Laura's appraisal of Blue Mountain College and its preparation for her career and the character strength of her life.

LAURA . . . "While a senior at Blue Mountain College, I was accepted into the University of Michigan Law School. Upon graduation (from Blue Mountain) I moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., and began my legal studies. My classmates were graduates of various Ivy League schools and other schools known as the country's "best." Faced with the most intense competition of my academic life, I realized that the opportunities and individual attention I had received at Blue Mountain College had prepared me to compete with the country's most promising young people while maintaining my personal integrity and ever-growing

faith in God."

Reflecting additionally upon the excellent experience of her undergraduate years, Laura said: "Blue Mountain College places women in virtually all the campus student leadership positions. As a student leader, one has the opportunity to speak at student gatherings, organize events, and counsel student peers. While a student, I served as student government president. That responsibility helped to prepare me for my law school experience and continues to benefit my career."

Speaking of the advantageous faculty-student ratio of Blue Mountain College, Laura pointed out that that ratio is such that "each student is encouraged to achieve at her individual pace. Faculty members know the students and seek to develop each student into her fullest potential. The active learning at Blue Mountain College is both a challenge and an adventure. It opens doors one once thought were locked and points up opportunities previously non-existent."

Laura is beautifully expressive of the permeative Christian atmosphere of the campus, of the abundance of wise guidance, the importance of the individual, the encouragement of students to develop their God-given abilities, and encouragement to contribute to their world. Paying tribute again to the faculty and staff of the college, Laura concludes her high appraisal of her undergraduate years in Blue Mountain College with this significant statement: "The Blue Mountain College experience bolstered me through law school and provides the foundation upon which to build a successful legal career."

Happy postscript: After graduating from University of Michigan's Law School, Laura passed the difficult Texas Bar examination and is now a member of a prestigious law firm in the Southwest.

Chester Swor of Jackson is known throughout the world as an inspirational speaker for youth congregations as well as everyone else.

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# "Church immunity from liability is gone"

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The law of the land that has kept churches immune from liability no longer applies, pastors and church leaders were warned during a church and law conference at Samford University here, May 11-12.

"Charitable immunity is gone," said James Guenther, a Nashville attorney and chief counsel for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

"The end of charitable immunity means that if you slander someone in a public prayer, or a child is hurt in a tug of war or you are negligent in counseling, you and the church can be sued for damages," Guenther said.

Guenther and other program personnel cited numerous court judgments — some involving millions of dollars — that have been leveled against religious organizations. More than 2,000 cases involving churches and their leaders are before the courts this year.

The conference, entitled "The Legal Threat,"

was sponsored by Samford's Center for the Study of Law and the Church. During the conference, center director Chriss H. Doss announced a hotline available for use by pastors and others who seek information from the center. The telephone number is 1-800-468-6726.

Participants expressed concern after being warned churches are liable if any church staff member or volunteer is involved in a vehicle accident while on church business. In one such case, plaintiffs are seeking a \$6 million settlement.

"Liability insurance must be in place, and church staffs should be sensitive to selection of drivers," Guenther stressed. Accidents related to church-sponsored recreational activities rank second in number to incidents involving vehicles. Many of these are the result of negligence, he added.

"Use common sense and gumption when planning activities, particularly those involving children," he said, citing negligence shown

in a California case in which a girl was paralyzed following an injury at a church outing. She was awarded \$2 million.

Guenther observed two types of cases "waiting to happen": those resulting from children running in church hallways and those resulting from church kitchens which fail to meet health codes.

He also pointed out churches are liable for violation of statutory duties, such as state and federal securities laws and copyright laws. "Songs can be sung during a service, but not broadcast. Copyrighted material may not be copied," Guenther reminded the audience.

The participants also were warned "the clergy will be the newest group of professionals sued for malpractice," by Roy and Nancy Heron, both Tennessee attorneys and ordained Methodist ministers. The couple spelled out the dangers related to malpractice.

Breach of confidentiality is a growing problem, and pastors should be careful about tell-

ing stories and giving examples from the pulpit, they said.

The flip side to confidentiality is that pastors often have a duty to warn a third party when that person might be in danger. Many states, for instance, require that any knowledge of child abuse be reported to authorities.

"It is important that a pastor know what his or her limits are in counseling. Many are not equipped to deal with certain mental illnesses. They should refer people to other professionals when over their bounds of expertise," said Mrs. Herron.

Arthur Walker, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, and a parliamentarian, noted the convention "has spent \$300,000 defending itself against suits based on parliamentary procedure."

"Using proper procedure is important. It gives structure and provides a beginning place. It is important for a group to know that there

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The Second Front Page

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### India Mission to stop seeking visas for now

By Marty Croll

BANGALORE, India (BP) — Following the most recent "no" in a series of visa denials, Southern Baptist missionaries in India have decided to stop seeking entry for new co-workers, for now.

Missionaries learned in late April the Indian government had denied a visa for Cindy Howard, a pediatrician appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last October. They had considered Howard their final test case in requesting visas. A request for visa extensions by college teacher David Travis and his wife has been pending for more than a year.

The modern Christian missionary movement began in what is now West Bengal, India, with the work of William Carey 195 years ago. But attempts by India's leaders to purify the nation of foreign influence could end missionary activity there, said Jerry Rankin, until recently administrator for Southern Baptist work in India.

For the past six years India has denied entry to new Southern Baptist missionaries, including some who possessed highly sought-after technical skills. Before Howard's visa was denied, a 33-year-old Southern Baptist woman with a doctorate in plant pathology was denied the opportunity to study at an Indian university. Medical personnel with very specialized training also have been denied entry.

"We're using this (Howard's visa denial) as a signal that it's pointless for us to continue to try to secure visas until there is some change in the political climate," said Rankin, who on June 1 became the Foreign Mission Board's area director for India and other nations in south Asia and the Pacific Ocean region.

"All over India among missionaries, more and more are being asked to leave, and visa extensions are not being granted," said Rebekah Naylor, administrator at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where Howard was to work. "This is evidently the continuing policy of the government."

Until about four years ago most Southern Baptist mission work with Indian believers was centered around the hospital, near the southern tip of India. But in 1982 the Foreign Mission Board began helping an entity named National Indian Ministries.

National Indian Ministries pooled the efforts of Southern Baptists and other Baptist groups working in the country. One of its primary goals was to help train Indian Baptists to start churches in areas where no Christian witness exists.

If Southern Baptist missionaries were asked to leave India, Baptist ranks still should continue to grow, Rankin said. "By training nationals

and equipping them to evangelize India, we're at a point that our church development and evangelism work would not be affected one way or another," he said.

Meanwhile, Naylor and the Baptist Hospital staff are working feverishly to prepare the hospital to stand on its own, training nationals to take over jobs that have been filled by missionaries. While Rankin believes the presence of Southern Baptist missionaries in India enhances the Christian ministry there, he also does not fear what appears to be happening.

"I believe that India is so open and so responsive that the Lord will do it (evangelize India) in a way that brings complete glory to him rather than to any human institution," he said. "I can certainly foresee what happened in China readily happening in India," he added, referring to the growth of the Christian church in China during the years most foreigners were barred from the country.

Religious extremists who have persecuted Christians and accused foreign missionaries of being troublemakers will be stunned as their countrymen continue to turn to Jesus Christ, even without foreign missionary influence, Rankin said.

Marty Croll writes for the FMB.

### ACTS will feature First Church, Jackson

Beginning June 7, the ACTS television network will begin a program entitled "Proclaim the Word," which will feature the worship services of First Church, Jackson.

The 30-minute program will include a choir anthem and the preaching of pastor Frank Pollard and will air at 2:30 Sunday afternoons, repeating at 11:30 p.m. and at 4:30 a.m., Monday mornings.

The air time was purchased by a First Church member who wishes to remain anonymous. The purchase is for six months of programming. Pollard reports that he did not encourage the purchase, but that "it's a way to help ACTS through a cash flow problem."

Pollard said that with the state of witness on television, the ACTS network, operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, shows itself to be "well audited and with responsible network programming."

Commission President Jimmy Allen suggested the preaching program which was to be called "Great Preachers of America." Pollard stipulated that if First Church, Jackson, was to be involved the title would have to be changed. Others committed to the preaching series are Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., and Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La.



#### Mission to Burkina Faso

These Mississippi Baptist women are traveling to Burkina Faso in West Africa, June 10-25, to teach missionary kids during their parents' annual mission meeting. From left, the volunteers are L. K. Spivey, Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson; Dixie Ball, First Church, Jackson; Mary Ingram, First Church, West Point; Monica Keathley, Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; Martha Kate Phillips, First Church, Calhoun City, and Gail Benedict, Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg. Monica Keathley, a consultant in the Woman's Missionary Union at the MBCB, is a former foreign missionary to Upper Volta, the former name of Burkina Faso.



# Senate panel approves civil rights measure

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The third time was the charm for a Senate committee attempting to vote on the proposed Civil Rights Restoration Act.

Although the vote was scheduled twice before, committee opponents of the legislation used procedural maneuvers to delay the process.

Finally — after almost three hours of debate over proposed amendments, none of which was approved — the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee voted 12-4 in favor of the legislation, which now goes to the full Senate.

Three of the panel's seven Republicans joined the nine Democrats in approving the measure May 20.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act would have the effect of overturning the Supreme Court's 1984 Grove City College decision that narrowed ap-

plication of four federal civil rights laws. The high court held an education anti-discrimination ban applied only to the "program or activity" receiving federal funds, not the entire institution.

Although the ruling directly applied to Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, it also affected three other civil rights statutes that contain the same "program or activity" language.

Supporters of the legislation — sponsored by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn. — say it would restore the civil rights laws to the scope they had "the day before the Grove City decision."

But opponents argue the bill would broaden the anti-discrimination laws' scope, especially in the areas of abor-

tion rights and government intrusion into religious institutions. Disputes over those issues stalled similar legislation during the last two Congresses.

As during past committee meetings on the legislation, debate prior to the final vote often was heated. The bill's sponsors accused opponents of using "scare tactics" and a "parade of horrors" in their effort to defeat the measure, while the opponents charged the supporters with misleading the American public about the bill's purpose and effects.

No date has been set for Senate consideration of the legislation, but sources report 58 senators already have indicated they plan to vote in favor of the measure.

Kathy Palen writes for the BP Washington bureau.

## BWA asks permission to give 100,000 Bibles

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. — The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has requested the permission of the Soviet government to present a gift of 100,000 Bibles to fellow believers in the Soviet Union. In a letter addressed to Konstantin Harchev, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs in the U.S.S.R., the Baptist World Alliance stated, "On the occasion of the millenium of Christianity in the U.S.S.R. the Baptist World Alliance would like to make a

gesture of appreciation and a gift to our brothers and sisters in the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists in the U.S.S.R."

The letter pointed out that the BWA had never approved of "Bible smuggling." "We have always been honest and open with you and therefore we submit to you this request to honor the one thousand years of Christianity in your country by this gift of 100,000

Bibles." The Orthodox Church in Russia was begun in 988 after the baptism of Prince Vladimir of Kiev.

Alexei Bychkov, general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists has expressed confidence that the Soviets will approve the request. The BWA has appealed to its constituency to provide \$1 million to finance the project.

## Attorneys argue appeal of lawsuit against Southern Baptist Convention

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — The appeal of a lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee was argued at the 11th U.S. Court of Appeals May 27.

The appeal, which has been pending for more than a year, concerns a lawsuit filed Dec. 5, 1985, by four messengers to the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention who said their rights had been violated by rulings made concerning the election of the 1986 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

Robert S. and Julia Crowder of Birmingham, Ala.; Henry Cooper of Windsor, Mo.; and H. Allen McCartney of Vero Beach, Fla., had asked the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia to interpret SBC bylaws, direct the SBC to comply with that interpretation and to vacate the

1986 Committee on Boards.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hall decided the suit in favor of the SBC, ruling May 5, 1986, that federal courts have no jurisdiction over the internal affairs of religious bodies and that the First Amendment shields matters of church governance, polity, and administration from civil jurisdiction.

He declined to go into the "merits of the case," noting the question of whether the rulings "were correct or patently incorrect is irrelevant because a decision as to validity of (the) rulings would involve this court in the internal affairs of the Southern Baptist Convention, a position the court cannot assume."

After Hall's ruling, the Crowders, Cooper and McCartney appealed the decision to the 11th Court of Appeals, arguing that Hall had erred in his decision and could have decided the

matter of bylaw interpretation under "neutral principles of law" without involving the court in the free exercise of religion.

During the May 27 arguments, attorneys for the opposing sides — arguing before a three judge panel — staked out the case on similar grounds.

Perry E. Pearce, an associate to former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell in the Atlanta lawfirm of King and Spalding, which represents the SBC, argued that the appeals court "should affirm the lower court decision that the First Amendment prohibits courts from involvement in internal church affairs."

Jane F. Vehko, an associate with the Atlanta lawfirm of Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore, said the district court had made an "overbroad" interpretation of the First Amendment and asked that the case be remanded to the district court for a rehearing on the merits of the case.

The panel did not announce when it will render a decision, but court observers indicate a conclusion to the suit should be made within the next 90 to 120 days — by August or September.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

## Second doctor says Finnell probably does not have MS

(Note: Several months ago, David and Linda Finnell, and their two young sons, came home to Mississippi on medical leave. David had become ill and a short time after arriving home, his illness was diagnosed as multiple sclerosis. His condition worsened rapidly. People throughout Mississippi and around the world began to pray for David. The following is taken from a recent newsletter from the Finnells, and printed in Alongside.)

In February, we were led to get a second opinion from Dr. Currier who specializes in MS and teaches at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. After five minutes with Dr. Currier, he said he didn't know what David had, but it was probably not MS. Under the direction of Dr. Currier, we gathered the CT and MRI brain scans and a lab report that had been done last September. With all the reports and a description of David's medical history, Dr. Currier is of the opinion that David probably does not have multiple sclerosis!

The beginning of his problem was probably related to the flooding of our Singapore home with raw sewage last May. For one week following this event, we cleaned up the house and yard as our family evacuated our home. The following week, David was in bed with a bad viral infection. Another week later and the first pain-

ful attack in the face occurred. No one can be certain what oriental varmint has invaded David's neurological system, nor of the prognosis, but Dr. Currier thinks that such an infection combined with something like a mild Guillain Barre Syndrome is responsible for his condition. He also feels that David should be able to function on a reasonable level in six months or so, and be completely healed in about a year. This would certainly be a wonderful outcome!

The bottom line is that God is in control and we can trust his will to be done for David! Only time will tell when David can function at what levels, but we are excited that there has been slow but steady improvement since Christmas. David is still very susceptible to flu or colds which cause a relapse of symptoms, thus he needs to stay away from public places until he is stronger. Heat continues to be a problem, but the overall improvement is exciting and encouraging!

Our current plans are to stay in Jackson until August at the Woodland Hills Baptist Church missionary home. Then we will move to nearby Clinton where David will teach a half-time load in the Religion Department at Mississippi College. This will give us until the end of the year for David's recuperation. Then, depending upon David's physical condition, we can return to full-time ministry.

## Raddin re-elected officer of ABTS Commission

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a record budget and took note of the growing maturity of the educational programs of the institution during its annual meeting April 30.

Commission members approved a budget of \$300,950, most of which goes directly to American Baptist College of American Baptist Theological Seminary, a black Bible school jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Meeting later with an equal number of trustees from the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., the Southern

Baptist commissioners also voted to adopt a record budget for the seminary. Gifts from National Baptists and tuition income are expected to provide the school with a record budget of \$886,552 for the 1987-88 academic year.

Kenneth L. Castleberry, pastor of Dalewood Baptist Church in Nashville, was reelected chairman of the seminary commission for 1987-88. Also re-elected were Marshall Gup-ton, pastor of Una Baptist Church, Nashville, vice chairman, and Roy D. Raddin, a director of associational missions in Greenville, Miss., recording secretary.

## Public Relations Association elects Tim Nicholas president

Tim Nicholas, Baptist Record associate editor, has been elected president for 1987-88 of the 360-member Baptist Public Relations Association. The organization is open to professional communicators who work for any Southern Baptist organization.

Other officers are Barbara Denman of the Home Mission Board, membership vice president; Jim Cox, of the Kentucky Western Recorder, program vice president; Tim Fields of the Christian Life Commission, newsletter editor; Dana Williamson of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, secretary; Lonnie Wilkey

of the SBC Education Commission, treasurer; and Barbara J. Fly of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, administrative and placement service coordinator.

## Off the Record

The 1st-grader asked his mother why his father brought home a briefcase of material each night. When the mother replied, "Daddy has so much

to do that he can't finish it all at the office so he has to work at night," the boy asked, "Well, why don't they just put him in a slower group?"

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# Churches committed to endowment campaign

Below is a breakdown by association of churches who have committed to The Mississippi Mission endowment campaign as of June 1, 1987.

Total Pledged To Date: \$24,988,923.33

| Church          | City          | Association   | Pledge  |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Tate Street     | Corinth       | Alcorn        | 66,000  |
| Ebenezer        | Ethel         | Attala        | 1,000   |
| Ethel           | Ethel         | Attala        | 8,000   |
| First           | Kosciusko     | Attala        | 137,000 |
| Parkway         | Kosciusko     | Attala        | 6,707   |
| Springdale      | West          | Attala        | 1,000   |
| Chinese         | Cleveland     | Bolivar       | 2,500   |
| First           | Cleveland     | Bolivar       | 88,000  |
| Pace            | Pace          | Bolivar       | 5,000   |
| Providence      | Cleveland     | Bolivar       | 7,000   |
| First           | Rosedale      | Bolivar       | 5,100   |
| Shaw            | Shaw          | Bolivar       | 12,000  |
| First           | Bruce         | Calhoun       | 60,000  |
| First           | Calhoun City  | Calhoun       | 77,662  |
| Lantrip         | Bruce         | Calhoun       | 2,000   |
| New Providence  | Pittsboro     | Calhoun       | 4,200   |
| Oak Grove       | Pittsboro     | Calhoun       | 1,000   |
| Poplar Springs  | Banner        | Calhoun       | 500     |
| First           | Vardaman      | Calhoun       | 15,000  |
| First           | Houston       | Chickasaw     | 10,000  |
| Enterprise      | Enterprise    | Clarke        | 20,000  |
| First           | Quitman       | Clarke        | 35,000  |
| First           | Stonewall     | Clarke        | 8,000   |
| First           | Hazlehurst    | Copiah        | 75,000  |
| Poplar Springs  | Hazlehurst    | Copiah        | 2,105   |
| Shady Grove     | Hazlehurst    | Copiah        | 6,000   |
| Union           | Seminary      | Covington     | 3,000   |
| Antioch         | Leakesville   | Greene        | 3,000   |
| Mohoba          | Lucedale      | Greene        | 100     |
| First           | Grenada       | Grenada       | 6,050   |
| Diamondhead     | Bay St. Louis | Gulf Coast    | 16,000  |
| First           | Wiggins       | Gulf Coast    | 25,000  |
| Bethesda        | Terry         | Hinds-Madison | 7,500   |
| Calvary         | Jackson       | Hinds-Madison | 500,000 |
| Chapel Hill     | Utica         | Hinds-Madison | 5,000   |
| Damascus        | Flora         | Hinds-Madison | 1,500   |
| Flora           | Flora         | Hinds-Madison | 30,000  |
| Pocahontas      | Jackson       | Hinds-Madison | 720     |
| Utica           | Utica         | Hinds-Madison | 30,000  |
| Wynndale        | Terry         | Hinds-Madison | 6,000   |
| Main Street     | Goodman       | Holmes        | 7,500   |
| Lakeland        | Mantachie     | Itawamba      | 1,000   |
| Vanceleave      | Vanceleave    | Jackson       | 30,000  |
| Bay Springs     | Bay Springs   | Jasper        | 41,000  |
| Fair Ridge      | Stringer      | Jasper        | 1,440   |
| Louin           | Louin         | Jasper        | 7,000   |
| Antioch         | Prentiss      | Jeff Davis    | 6,000   |
| Prentiss        | Prentiss      | Jeff Davis    | 1,000   |
| Bay Springs     | Porterville   | Kemper        | 10,000  |
| Center Ridge    | DeKalb        | Kemper        | 8,000   |
| Yellow Leaf     | Oxford        | Lafayette     | 2,400   |
| New Hebron      | Newhebron     | Lawrence      | 30,025  |
| Springfield     | Carthage      | Leake         | 1,500   |
| Bissell         | Tupelo        | Lee           | 15,000  |
| Calvary         | Tupelo        | Lee           | 225,000 |
| Dotys Chapel    | Shannon       | Lee           | 6,000   |
| First           | Tupelo        | Lee           | 135,000 |
| First           | Nettleton     | Lee           | 9,000   |
| New Hope        | Tupelo        | Lee           | 15,000  |
| First           | Saltillo      | Lee           | 6,000   |
| First           | Greenwood     | Leflore       | 100,000 |
| First           | Brookhaven    | Lincoln       | 175,000 |
| Mt. Pleasant    | Bogue Chitto  | Lincoln       | 2,000   |
| Cedar Grove     | Columbia      | Marion        | 3,000   |
| Berwick         | Liberty       | Mississippi   | 5,000   |
| Crosby          | Crosby        | Mississippi   | 2,500   |
| Ebenezer        | Liberty       | Mississippi   | 4,000   |
| Enterprise      | Liberty       | Mississippi   | 2,400   |
| Galilee         | Gloster       | Mississippi   | 7,500   |
| New Zion        | Liberty       | Mississippi   | 2,500   |
| First           | Amory         | Monroe        | 60,000  |
| Midway          | Newton        | Newton        | 2,500   |
| Sulphur Springs | Conehatta     | Newton        | 1,960   |
| Dundee          | Tunica        | North Delta   | 45,000  |
| First           | Tunica        | North Delta   | 6,000   |
| Colonial Hills  | Southaven     | Northwest     | 60,000  |

Congregational Gifts  
Division Total  
Pledged To Date

\$3,779,495.18

| Church           | City          | Association  | Pledge  |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Mineral Wells    | Mineral Wells | Northwest    | 500     |
| Shuqualak        | Shuqualak     | Noxubee      | 600     |
| Derby            | Poplarville   | Pearl River  | 3,000   |
| First            | Poplarville   | Pearl River  | 25,000  |
| Bluff Springs    | Magnolia      | Pike         | 3,600   |
| Central          | McComb        | Pike         | 40,000  |
| First            | McComb        | Pike         | 125,000 |
| First            | Summit        | Pike         | 60,000  |
| Osyka            | Osyka         | Pike         | 11,000  |
| Progress         | McComb        | Pike         | 6,000   |
| South McComb     | McComb        | Pike         | 11,300  |
| Algoma           | Algoma        | Pontotoc     | 10,000  |
| Cairo            | Ecrú          | Pontotoc     | 6,000   |
| Cherry Creek     | Ecrú          | Pontotoc     | 3,000   |
| Cooke            | Houlka        | Pontotoc     | 500     |
| County Line      | Randolph      | Pontotoc     | 11,000  |
| First            | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 50,000  |
| Green Valley     | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 1,000   |
| Locust Hill      | Blue Springs  | Pontotoc     | 6,000   |
| Midway           | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 5,000   |
| Toxish           | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 6,000   |
| Troy             | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 4,000   |
| Woodland         | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 3,500   |
| Zion             | Pontotoc      | Pontotoc     | 10,000  |
| Barefoot Springs | Pelahatchie   | Rankin       | 1,500   |
| Briar Hill       | Florence      | Rankin       | 18,000  |
| First            | Brandon       | Rankin       | 8,000   |
| Puckett          | Puckett       | Rankin       | 5,370   |
| Springfield      | Morton        | Scott        | 6,000   |
| Dry Creek        | Mendenhall    | Simpson      | 1,000   |
| First            | Magee         | Simpson      | 80,000  |
| Clear Springs    | Louin         | Smith        | 1,000   |
| Mt. Zion         | Taylorville   | Smith        | 5,000   |
| Salem            | Raleigh       | Smith        | 3,289   |
| Sylvarena        | Raleigh       | Smith        | 9,000   |
| Ted              | Louin         | Smith        | 2,000   |
| Walnut Grove     | Bay Springs   | Smith        | 1,000   |
| First            | Indianola     | Sunflower    | 50,000  |
| Chalybeate       | Walnut        | Tippah       | 6,000   |
| Falkner          | Falkner       | Tippah       | 13,125  |
| First            | Ripley        | Tippah       | 50,000  |
| Harmony          | Walnut        | Tippah       | 17,000  |
| Lowrey Mem.      | Blue Mountain | Tippah       | 12,000  |
| Providence       | Tiptersville  | Tippah       | 5,000   |
| Shady Grove      | Ripley        | Tippah       | 5,000   |
| West Ripley      | Ripley        | Tippah       | 8,200   |
| Eastport         | Iuka          | Tishomingo   | 1,000   |
| Iuka             | Iuka          | Tishomingo   | 5,000   |
| Southwood        | Iuka          | Tishomingo   | 1,000   |
| First            | New Albany    | Union County | 125,000 |
| Fredonia         | New Albany    | Union County | 5,000   |
| Hillcrest        | New Albany    | Union County | 25,000  |
| Ingomar          | New Albany    | Union County | 10,000  |
| Macedonia        | Myrtle        | Union County | 6,000   |
| New Harmony      | Blue Springs  | Union County | 5,000   |
| Old Oak Grove    | Myrtle        | Union County | 5,000   |
| Wallerville      | New Albany    | Union County | 11,000  |
| Chinese Mission  | Greenville    | Washington   | 4,000   |
| First            | Greenville    | Washington   | 235,000 |
| First            | Waynesboro    | Wayne        | 15,000  |
| Evergreen        | Louisville    | Winston      | 12,000  |
| First            | Coffeeville   | Yalobusha    | 39,000  |
| Hopewell         | Water Valley  | Yalobusha    | 3,000   |
| Eden             | Yazoo City    | Yazoo        | 5,200   |
| First            | Yazoo City    | Yazoo        | 120,000 |
| Holly Bluff      | Holly Bluff   | Yazoo        | 3,741   |
| Bluff Springs    | Eupora        | Webster      | 2,000   |
| Calvary          | Eupora        | Webster      | 3,500   |
| Edgeworth        | Eupora        | Webster      | 2,000   |
| First            | Eupora        | Webster      | 52,000  |
| Lollars Grove    | Eupora        | Webster      | 4,000   |
| Montevista       | Eupora        | Webster      | 1,800   |
| New Hope         | Calhoun City  | Webster      | 2,500   |
| Philadelphia     | Gore Springs  | Webster      | 6,000   |
| Pilgrims Rest    | Eupora        | Webster      | 5,000   |
| Sapa             | Eupora        | Webster      | 4,000   |
| Walthall         | Walthall      | Webster      | 6,000   |

Thursday, June 4, 1987

## British Baptists may get new name, address

LONDON (BWA) — The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland and the world's oldest Baptist mission, the Baptist Missionary Society, have confirmed a shared commitment to set up joint headquarters, probably at a new location for both bodies.

The Baptist Union, which has been located on the same premises since 1903 — two years before the Baptist World Alliance was founded in 1905 in London — heard a recent report from its Council stating that the Southampton Row building would not be the best place for the joint headquarters.

The Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) is headquartered on Gloucester Place, several miles from Baptist Church House. Alternative premises might be in the London area or perhaps in Birmingham, said Council member John Beaumont, who is also to become the Union's solicitor.

According to Baptist Times, the London planning commission gave permission last November for refurbishing the Southampton Row building. However, costs and the difficulties in keeping an old building could not be overcome.

In another action, the Union is asking its annual assemblies next year to ratify dropping the word "and Ireland" from its name to read "The Baptist Union of Great Britain."

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# capsules

## Wayland trustees name Methodist as interim CEO

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP) — Glenn Barnett, a Methodist layman and retired vice president of Texas Tech University, has been named interim chief executive officer at Wayland Baptist University here. Barnett will assume his duties June 30, when President David L. Jester's resignation becomes effective, announced J.B. Roberts, a Plainview businessman and chairman of the Wayland trustees' executive committee.

Jester submitted his resignation May 9 during a trustee meeting which had been called to assess the school's progress following a 20 percent reduction of its \$12.5 million budget in March. Barnett was executive vice president of Texas Tech for 13 years prior to his retirement in 1981.

## Texas House rejects lottery referendum

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Gambling opponents won an important battle when the Texas House of Representatives rejected a proposed state lottery May 14. The lottery bill by Rep. Ron Wilson of Houston called for a constitutional amendment to do away with Texas' 142-year-old ban on lotteries. In addition to two-thirds approval in the House, the proposal needed Senate passage and voter approval in a statewide referendum. In the House, lottery proponents tallied only 72 of a needed 100 votes, while opponents registered 73 votes to kill the measure.

## Cardiff men's conference has room for more

CARDIFF, WALES — David Beaumont, Baptist World Alliance Men's Department European Chairman, announced recently, "There is still plenty of accommodation available, including good quality reasonably priced university accommodation." North American registrations have been good for the 4th World Conference of Baptist Men, July 1-5, 1987, in Cardiff, Wales, but "the response from Europe has been disappointing," lamented Beaumont.

Interested persons may contact Dave Beaumont, Grove Cottage, 81 High Street, Winterbourne, Avon BS17 1RA, England.

## Roof-less church still meets

RUNDU, Namibia — After a wind-storm during rainy season destroyed the roof of Kaisosi Baptist Church in Rundu, Namibia, repair work started

immediately. Meanwhile, hundreds of worshippers continued to meet outside under large trees near the church building for Sunday worship when it was not raining. The building was constructed by the Kaisosi people who made the bricks themselves.

The Baptist Association of Namibia and Baptist missionaries in that country helped purchase materials for the roof. The church's pastor, Moses Tololi, last year became the first national Baptist pastor to be ordained in Namibia (formerly South West Africa).

## Persecution hits Christians

MONROVIA, Liberia (EP) — Members of secret societies, concerned with the rapid growth in the Christian church in Liberia, have responded with violence.

Six Assembly of God churches that refused to join secret societies were destroyed, and church and lay leaders were beaten and driven from their homes. One of the church buildings that was destroyed had been newly completed and not yet dedicated.

## Governor starts with prayer

BELEM, Brazil — At newly elected Gov. Helio Gueiros' request, First Baptist Church in Belem held an "evangelical worship service of thanksgiving and intercession" the night before he was sworn into office as leader of Para state. Included in the official inauguration activities, the service attracted more than 1,000 people according to Southern Baptist missionary Loyd Moon, who preached.

"The incredible thing was the reverence," Moon said. "People were still and listened to every word." Gueiros also spoke, telling of what the Bible has meant in his life.

## University gets \$20 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The University of Richmond will receive a gift of \$20 million to establish a center for leadership studies.

The total gift will be presented in two stages. Mr. and Mrs. Roger S. Jepson Jr. of Elmhurst, Ill., will provide \$5 million this summer to go toward construction of a 65,000-square-foot building to house the proposed leadership studies center.

The Jepsons and an anonymous donor will provide an additional \$15 million when the studies program has been created and implemented.

## Missionaries teach Olympic officials

SEOUL, South Korea — Twenty-two Southern Baptist missionaries have volunteered to teach English to Korean Olympic officials training for the 1988 Summer Olympics, to be held in South Korea.

# Foreign Mission Board trustees 'regret' lack of female nominees

By Craig Bird

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board voted May 20 to express "regret" no women have been slated for nomination for election to the board at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention and to ask the SBC Executive Committee to "note this inequality in future years" and address it.

Mary Strauss, who completed her second and final term as a Foreign Mission Board trustee at the May meeting here, made the motion after reading the list of nine pastors and one full-time evangelist who will be nominated to the agency by the Southern Baptist Committee on Boards in June.

"I stand before you as a member of a vanishing species — a woman serving on one of the Southern Baptist Convention's boards or agencies," Strauss told her fellow trustees. "The women of this denomination are beginning to feel disenfranchised, second-class, and second-rate as they continue to be bypassed for positions of leadership."

Since the April 28 Baptist Press news release she based her comments on, another pastor has been nominated to the Foreign Mission Board. Two vacancies are yet to be filled. Ten women elected in earlier years re-

main on the 85-member board. No count was taken on the motion which passed easily, but apparently three trustees voted "no" while some other trustees did not participate in the hand vote. No one spoke against the motion when discussion was called for. T.C. Pinckney, chairman of the 1987 Committee on Boards, was contacted at his home in Alexandria, Va., after the vote. He said he had encouraged committee members to consider women and ethnic minorities and feels "they did a commendable job — we have a number of women who will be nominated to other boards, it just happened the people for the Foreign Mission Board all happened to be men." Nine women were included in the April committee report, including one each on the Executive Committee, the Sunday School Board, the Annuity Board, the Radio-Television Commission and, pending a by-law change, the Public Affairs Committee. The Historical Commission and the Christian Life Commission each had two women nominees listed. Strauss noted she was not basing her argument on the doctrinal or theological issues which have become Southern Baptist battlefields ("though I obviously have my own feelings about that") and that she was not "advocating affirmative action in

Southern Baptist by-laws." Instead she pointed to Baptist women serving as governors, legislators, presidents of national organizations and heads of businesses as examples of "women who are articulate, well-educated and experienced who are not being used," on the Foreign Mission Board governing group. Strauss, a homemaker from Hagerstown, Md., and president-elect of the American Medical Association Auxiliary, warned that such women, "if not utilized, will exercise their talents in other places and we (Southern Baptists and foreign missions) will be the losers."

If the trend continues, "women who have great resources will not be willing to support" Southern Baptist causes, she said. "There is a low ebb of enthusiasm among women to support a convention that doesn't support us."

Pinckney said he contacted each of the other 53 members of the Committee on Boards at least twice in person or by phone. Early in the process, he reminded them of the Southern Baptist Convention's "reputation for having lily-white, all-male governing bodies" and urged them to "seek an appropriate number of women and ethnics."

Craig Bird writes for BP.

# Sears challenges Baptists to wage war on pornography

LOS ANGELES (BP) — A war against pornographers who devastate homes, destroy lives, and prey on women and children is being won all across America, participants at a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission conference on pornography were told.

"Pornography is a powerful \$8 billion per year industry, but current federal laws prohibit the production and distribution of pornography which is judged to be obscene by specific obscenity standards," Alan Sears, legal counsel for Citizens for Decency through Law of Phoenix, Ariz., and member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, told Baptists at the two-day meeting here.

Sears, was executive director of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography which released its report last year, said he has been overwhelmed by the number of Southern Baptists who have told him their lives have been hurt or destroyed by pornography. Some Southern Baptists have died from suicide directly related to pornography, he said.

Southern Baptists, must join the battle against pornography and obscenity either by joining other church and community groups now fighting the battle or by initiating their own efforts, Sears said.

"Pornography is a very lucrative and dangerous business," he asserted. "One adult bookstore with 12 peep-show booths where anonymous sex acts occur can generate from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 a year in untaxed income.

Men who engage in sex acts in these places contract venereal diseases and come home and give the diseases to their innocent, unsuspecting wives."

"Pornography shops are training camps for sexual abuse," Sears charged.

"Every single adult bookstore sets up a motive for sexual abuse to women and children."

According to Sears, the abuse of children comes both in physical abuse by parents, friends, and relatives whose actions are motivated by their obsession with pornography, and by the pornographers who use children as models or participants in the production of obscene materials.

Pornographers, he said, also abuse children by targeting them as purchasers of pornography: "The main consumers of pornography are 12- to 17-year-old youth. They know far more about pornography than their parents or grandparents ever knew. The main target of dial-a-porn telephone numbers is teenagers. Some of these dial-a-porn numbers are designed solely to appeal to youth, and the content is very explicit."

One dial-a-porn operator also owned a newspaper in a major city and published the phone numbers on the front page of the paper where they would be easily accessible to young people, he said.

"Discrimination and abuse are not limited to women and children," Sears said. "I call pornography 'hate literature.' The Nazis and Ku Klux Klan are amateurs compared to the

pornographers. Pornography exhibits blatant discrimination against blacks, Hispanics, and Orientals. There is even a genre of pornography against Vietnam veterans."

N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, also spoke to participants and said churches have been apathetic about the issue of pornography.

These suggestions were given by Sears at the conference to aid in beginning a fight against pornography:

— Educate yourself and others about the issue of pornography and obscenity. Pornographic materials which meet the criteria of federal obscenity laws are not protected by the first amendment. Even soft-core pornography can be regulated as to time, place, and manner of display.

— Fix the law. Enact new legislation related to dial-a-porn and cable television. Push for federal forfeiture laws which allow profits from obscenity convictions to be used to help pornography victims and to pay for law enforcement and prosecution costs.

— Deal with sources of pornography. Use local zoning laws to move pornography out of residential areas. Work with the local prosecutor to bring purveyors of legally obscene material to trial. Put economic pressure on vendors of soft-core pornography which is not illegal but is destructive.



# N.O. grants degrees to Mississippians



Wise

Matthews

Fagan

Yancey

Four from Mississippi received doctoral degrees May 16 from New Orleans Seminary. They are Edwin LeBron Matthews, from Marietta, Ga., pastor of DeSoto Church, Shubuta, Miss., doctor of theology; Dewey R. Wise, Haleyville, Ala., director of the clinical pastoral training at Southeast Louisiana Hospital, Mandeville (home church, Bay Vista, Biloxi), doctor of education; Julian Walter Fagan III, Pontotoc, pastor of First Church, Pontotoc, doctor of ministry; and Rex Yancey, Dumas, pastor, First Church, Quitman, doctor of ministry.

Other Mississippians who received degrees May 16 from New Orleans Seminary are James Alan Thompson, Monroe, La., minister of youth and activities at Arlington Heights, Pascagoula, master of divinity; O. E. Myers Jr., Laurel, associate of divinity in pastoral ministry; Eva Perry Cain, Houston, wife of pastor, Bethel Church, Woodland, associate of divinity in religious education; Henry Ralph Cain, Houston, pastor of Bethel Church, Woodland; Dennis Keith McAnally, Duck Hill, master of divinity; Richard Wayne Malley, Varnado, La., minister of youth and music at First Church, Ozona, master of divinity;

Joel Robert Stroud, Lambert, pastor of Silver Springs, Osyka,

master of divinity; Douglas Clifford Curbow, Tupelo, minister of music at Locust Street, McComb, master of religious education; Lara Paschal Smith, Birmingham, Ala., wife of the pastor of Knoxo, master of religious education; Paul E. Smith, Birmingham, Ala., pastor of Knoxo Church, Knoxo, master of divinity; Jerry L. Skinner, Jackson, pastor, Talisheek, La., master of divinity; Robert Boyd, Bay St. Louis master of divinity;

John Daniel Cleveland, Jackson, master of religious education; Sue Collins Cleveland, Jackson, master of religious education; Michael S. Whitten, Columbus, master of religious education; Charles C. Chapman, Clinton, minister of education and youth at Lafitte Church, Saraland, Ala., master of religious education; Edward Lamar Mahaffey, Pearl, minister of youth at Oak Grove, Prairieville, La., master of divinity;

Stanley Earl Nowell, Sumner, pastor of Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty, master of divinity; Donald R. Windham, Bay Springs, master of religious education; James D. Davis, Laurel, pastor of First Church, Oak Grove, Sylacauga, Ala., master of divinity; Clifford Earl Lazenby, Lumberton, pastor of Springhill Church, Lumberton, master of divinity; Rhonda G. Buckels, Gautier,

## Kitchings honored in resolution

A resolution in memory of Harold T. Kitchings, who, before his death was executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, has been adopted by the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Hardy R. Denham Jr., president of the board, signed the resolution that expressed "sincere gratitude for the life and labors of Dr. Harold T. Kitchings..." and assured Mrs. Kitchings and their children of the sympathy and prayers of the board members. Copies were sent to the board of trustees of the foundation and to the executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The resolution paid tribute to Kitchings as a "servant of both Jesus Christ and the Mississippi Baptist Convention" and noted his concern for "Christian education in general and the training of ministerial students in particular..."

## Reedy will replace Smith on committee

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Frank Gunn has replaced Vince Smith on the MBC Committee on Committees because Smith is leaving the state to become pastor of Philadelphia Church, Birmingham.

Smith's replacement will be Guy Reedy, pastor of First Church, Water Valley.

Other members on the committee are Bobbie (Mrs. Ingram) Foster, Prentiss; Bob Self, Brookhaven; Avery Jones, West Point; and Dennis Smith, Corinth. Reedy will also take Vince Smith's position as chairman.

## State students are graduated in Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Five Mississippi students were awarded degrees from the Southern Seminary during the school's 159th commencement May 22.

The Mississippi students were among approximately 290 persons to receive degrees from the schools of theology, church music, Christian education and social work.

William Hull, provost-elect at Samford University, delivered the commencement address.

The Mississippi graduates included the following:

Doctor of ministry — James Jenkins Nelson of Jackson; master of arts in Christian education — Nenette L. Measels of Decatur; master of church music — Sidney Bryan Pridy of Cary; master of divinity — Richard C. Prassel, Jr. of Raymond; doctor of philosophy — Robert William Canoy of Greenville.



Canoy

## Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the April 30 issue of the Baptist Record.

Calhoun: FBC Vardaman; Carroll — Montgomery: North Carrollton; Clarke: Center Ridge; Copiah: Pilgrim's Rest; Gulf Coast: FBC Pearlinton; Jones: Sand Hill; Kemper: Bay Springs; Lincoln: Pleasant Grove; Lowndes: East End; Mississippi: Zion Hill; Neshoba: Grace; Newton: Clarke-Venable; Oktibbeha: Friendship, Meadowview; Panola: Peach Creek; Pontotoc: Toxish; Simpson: Holly Grove, Oak Grove; Union County: Jericho, Pleasant Hill; Wayne: Trinity; Webster: Cumberland; Yalobusha: Sylvarena.

## Associations adopt annuity plan

This association has adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those last reported in the April 30 issue of the Baptist Record: Kemper-Neshoba

## Southern Baptists for Life plan to meet in St. Louis

Southern Baptists for Life, an organization of Southern Baptists interested in restoring legal protection to the lives of the unborn, will be holding its third annual meeting in conjunction with the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

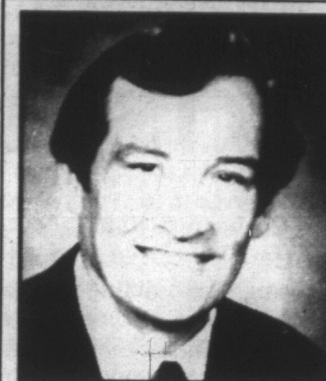
The meeting will be from 2 p.m. to

4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, at the Embassy Suites Hotel Ballroom, 901 N. First Street (seven blocks east of the Convention Center on Convention Plaza Blvd.)

All persons interested in the Southern Baptist right-to-life effort are invited to attend.

Thursday, June 4, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



## DR. ROGERS

at

First Baptist Church of Arnold

June 14, 1987

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President Southern Baptist Convention

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Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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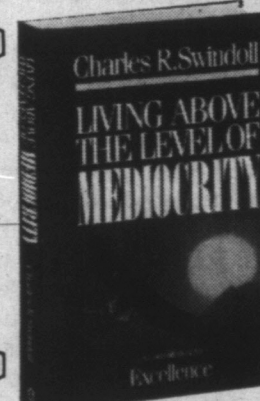
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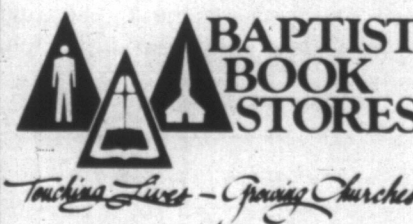
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## A T-6 paraplegic

# Right words at right time helped

By Tim Nicholas

One night in 1982, Nolan Cochran was in an accident he didn't walk away from. He was 15 then and went out after church on a Sunday night with some friends in a jeep. Crossing a creek near Sherman in northeast Mississippi, the group saw a flash of lights, swerved to miss whatever it was and flipped into the creek. DeWayne Garner was banged up pretty bad, says Cochran. The two others in the jeep, Brad Robinson of the Macedonia Community, and Angela Caldwell of Nettleton, died. Cochran's spine was snapped. He says if he'd been driving he'd have swerved, too. No car stopped to help and details of the rest of the evening are vague to Cochran.

He's called a T-6 paraplegic, he says, which means that his backbone was broken about midway down the stomach area. He had decent sized arms to begin with, but now he lifts his full body weight constantly — getting into and out of his truck which he drives or the church's riding lawn mower.

The church is Macedonia Baptist and Cochran is an inspiration, says pastor Marion Payne. "He keeps the yard mowed, runs the sound system, does the bulletin for us, teaches in Church Training, and has how many years not missing a Sunday in Sunday School," says Payne. "He's faithful and has a real cheerful attitude," says Payne.

"Instead of looking at everything

down," says Cochran, "I said, 'shoot, I'm lucky; I could have been dead.' I'll live with what I've got and be happy with it. It could have been worse. I guess that's why I don't have no bitter feelings toward anybody."

Recovery from an operation and rehabilitation efforts took place at Methodist Rehab in Jackson where a roommate was a minister of music who had a head injury. "He had to get me to remind him to put on his helmet," recalls Cochran. The man could still play the piano which Cochran enjoyed hearing. And he would pray. "He'd get to a certain point and couldn't say nothing for a while . . . then he'd just say 'amen.'"

"I don't see how anybody could live and not say there's a Jesus Christ," say Cochran. "It just plumb amazes me that someone could deny there's Jesus the Savior . . . first thing goes wrong, what's the first thing they say? Jesus."

Cochran passes out a lot more credit for his attitude. A former youth minister at Macedonia Church, Carey McCraw, "had the right words at the right time" for Cochran. McCraw himself died in an automobile accident a year after Cochran's. "He was always happy," says Cochran.

His high school mates helped. He played football till the accident. They visited him, let him sit on the sidelines and work out with them in the weight room.

And his parents, Barbara "Bob"



Nolan Cochran of Macedonia Church near Sherman, types the church bulletin. The paraplegic who wonders how anybody would not believe in God, says of the bulletin typing, "Somebody's got to do it."

and Joe Cochran, get the lion's share of credit from the young man. "I have to throw everything to mother and daddy and the way I was raised — in a Christian home with everything just right," he says. Going to church was "automatic, you just get up and go, just like getting up in the morning and eating breakfast." After the accident, "They seemed to be there with the right answer at the right time," he says.

There's a lot he can't do that he wants to do — like play football again. But he's gone back to hunting — five deer this season, including a doe on doe day. He rides a three wheeler — says they aren't dangerous — and now he's thinking of going back to riding the horses his family owns.

He's teaching the Revelation in Church Training to the youth. "I'm putting it into today's perspectives," he says. "They must be getting

something out of it; they're asking each other questions and even trying to find out their own answers."

Right now time is on his hands. He's a credit short of graduating from high school. He says he got bored, but is considering finishing up and going to the community college. What he would study is up for grabs as is what he'd like to do for a living. "I don't know, it's, you get stumped. I like the outside. I couldn't picture myself in an office. I can't picture myself typing a bulletin — but somebody's got to do it," he says. He's got some puppies he's starting to train as cow dogs, he's got a raccoon he plays with, and he visits his grandfather nearby who is taking cobalt treatments for cancer. Pastor Payne says the family is having a tough time with Joe Cochran having to travel 100 miles away to Memphis to work. He'd lose the insurance on Nolan if he quit his company.

"I was saved when I was 12, but didn't realize the whole thing till the wreck," says Cochran. "Then everything come together. Some of the questions I had about Christianity, I was able to answer — is there really a God? — and things like that."

He adds, "If you're in an accident like that, there's no doubt in your mind that there is one. He knows what he's doing. Anyway, why do you want to question him? Either he's going to do it through you or if you're not able, he's going to find someone else . . . or find something else for you to do."

## 25 state students to join missions project in Brazil

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — A total of 143 students representing 25 Baptist state conventions—including 25 from Mississippi—have been approved for a two-week missions encounter in Brazil in January 1988.

Fourteen students will remain in Brazil as semester missionaries.

The project is the flagship for future

involvement of students in volunteer foreign missions, said Harlan Spurgeon, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for human resources. It is a cooperative effort of the Foreign Mission Board, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministries department, and the Brazilian Baptist

Home Mission Board.

Teams of five Southern Baptist students will join five-member teams of Brazilian Baptist college students for mission projects throughout the country.

While the project is designed to expose Southern Baptist students to foreign missions work, it also will help Brazilian Baptists see what can be done through student work and volunteer student mission projects, said Mattie Lou Bible, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil who works with the Brazilian Baptist National Youth Board in student work.

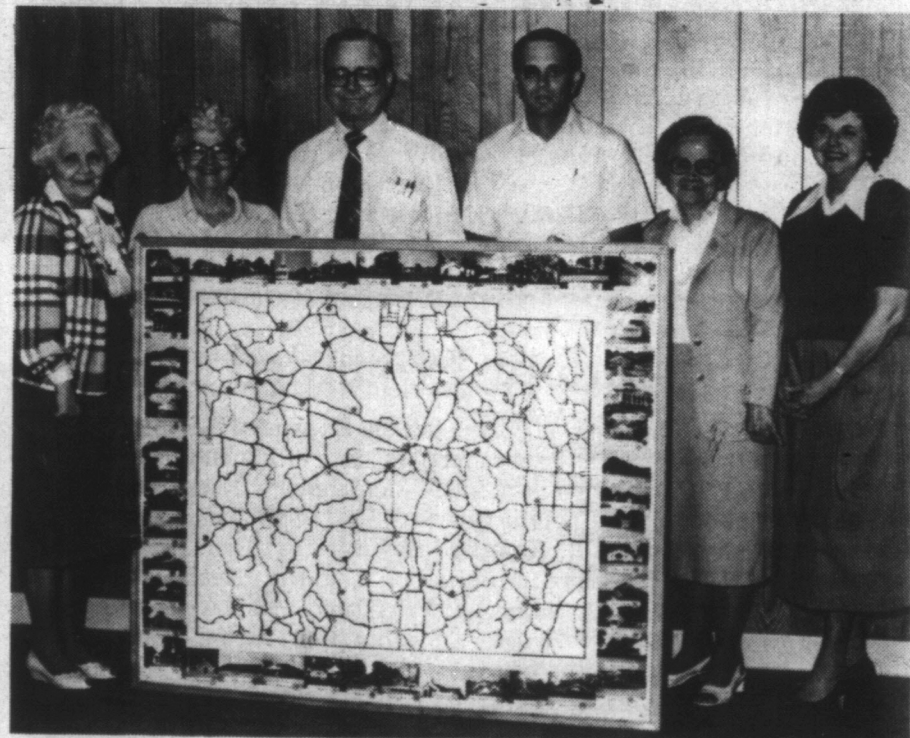
Brazilian Baptists also have selected 150 student volunteers to participate in the project.

Southern Baptist students approved for the project represent 25 state conventions including students from Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Of the U.S. students, 26 are from North Carolina, 25 from Mississippi, 11 from Texas, and 10 from Missouri. In Mississippi, 31 students applied for the 10 positions originally available to the state.

Students are responsible for raising the estimated \$1,650 cost of participating in the project. However, some state conventions are assisting in funding for some students.

White writes for the Baptist Sunday School Board.



## Pontotoc committee maps churches

The history committee of Pontotoc County Association has completed its project of making and mounting pictures of the 48 churches that make up the association. A 36-inch by a 42-inch map, made by Mrs. Jean Clements, an associate member of the committee, pinpoints the location of all the churches. Identical markers on the pictures which are mounted around the map, make it easy to find the position of each church building. The map is framed, covered with plexi-glass, and now hangs in the new missions office building on Highway 15 by-pass.

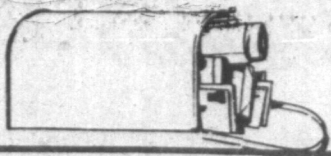
The history committee is now writing an associational history to be completed in October 1989, the 70th anniversary of the association. Committee members are (from left) Mrs. Callie Young, chairperson, Miss Cooper Thompson, Wade Allen, Tommy Inmon, Mrs. Elva McCleskey, and Mrs. Jean Clements. Members not in the picture are Floyd McCullough and Mrs. Frances Gray.

## Scripture is in 1,848 languages

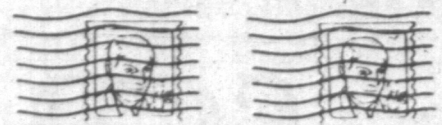
NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Scriptures and Scripture portions were made available in 19 new languages in 1986, bringing to 1,848 the total number of world languages in which some part of the Bible has been published, according to the United Bible Societies.







# Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

## State-sponsored prayer

Editor:

Thanks and appreciation go to you for your excellent editorial about prayer ("Not the Way Prayer Works") in the April 16 issue. Your arguments were good instruction for new Baptists and excellent reminders for older Baptists. Thank you for your ministry of words.

The Baptist Joint Committee also seeks to prohibit state-sponsored school prayer. No bill or amendment to that effect has ever increased the number of students who can already pray voluntarily. If we think we can "kick God out of the schools" by prohibiting public school prayer, then we've a pretty small God, one who is unable to enjoy perfect attendance in every school classroom around the world.

We look forward to more of your incisive writing about modern church-

state issues. Feel free to call upon us if we can be of help.

Very truly yours,  
Marc Mullinax

## Are school prayer amendments really needed?

Editor:

Many feel the way to assure improved morality in public schools and in society is to legalize organized, vocal prayer by little children. But proposed constitutional amendments raised several possibilities.

How will Protestant students react to public prayer addressed to "Holy Mary, Mother of God"? Or how will Jewish youngsters respond to prayer offered by Christians "in Jesus name"? Or how well will fundamentalists control themselves when some liberated female student addresses her prayer to "Dear Heavenly Mother"?

Will impressionable children who have been taught to pray extemporaneously be passive to prayer recited from rote memory, and perhaps repeated several times?

What will be the limits placed upon worshippers who feel compelled to interject "Amen's" to another's public prayer?

How well will the teacher handle it when one student is expected to say the daily prayer and many voices start praying aloud simultaneously as they are accustomed to do in their local church? Or what will the leader do when a zealous participant breaks forth into ecstatic speech or speaking in tongues? Is school administration competent in religion to deal with this?

Or what means will be used to command reverence from students who may reject all forms of religion? What forms of discipline are appropriate for school officials to impose upon religious non-conformists? History suggests that imprisonments, torture, and death may be necessary.

Do we really need organized public prayer in every public school room?  
Shelton Simmons  
Nederland, Texas

## Charismatic missionaries

Editor:

Has the Home Mission Board really proposed a policy that prohibits the appointment of any missionary who speaks in tongues, public or private?

I Cor. 14:39-40: "So my fellow believers long to be prophets, so that you can preach God's message plain-

ly; and never say it is wrong to "speak in tongues;" however, be sure that everything is done properly in a good and orderly way."

These people on the Home Mission Board, if they proposed such a policy, are in fact saying that it's wrong to speak in tongues.

I've been a Southern Baptist all my life. I know what the Bible says about tongues. Paul says he prays both ways in the known and unknown tongues. If anything is in the Bible, I believe it—speaking in tongues or whatever.

It's one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Being a Baptist I haven't been exposed to very much, but it sure would be nice to have all the gifts the Holy Spirit has to offer. I've never spoken in tongues, but I heard a lady speak in tongues at a Pentecostal church, and I understood every word that she said, and it made me believe in speaking in tongues. It was a wonderful experience. Maybe some day all Christians everywhere will want all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

When we get all the gifts, we will then truly have a great revival.

Zelle Manning  
Morton

I don't believe that the Home Mission Board has taken an official stand on that matter. The new president, Larry Lewis, has said that he would be hesitant to see missionaries appointed who spoke in tongues but that

the matter would have to be handled with care. — Editor.

## Invitation to worship

Editor:

The Kirkwood Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., is pleased to invite Southern Baptist Convention messengers and guests to join us in Bible Study and in worship on Sunday morning, June 14. Our schedule is as follows:

8:15 EARLY WORSHIP, preacher: Dr. James Dunn, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.  
SOLOIST: Cynthia Clawson

9:15 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR GUESTS, teacher: Mrs. Lawanna McIver, member of Home Mission Board and formerly with Radio and TV Commission.

10:30 WORSHIP, preacher: Dr. Roy Lee Honeycutt, Jr., President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

SOLOIST: Cynthia Clawson  
Our address is 211 N. Woodlawn in Kirkwood. Our telephone number is (314) N. Woodlawn in Kirkwood. Our telephone number is (314) 965-2349. We eagerly look forward to being joined with many of our extended family of faith in the worship of God on June 14.

Paul D. Duke,  
pastor

## Evangelism should bind Baptists, Fuller says

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A commitment to evangelism should be what holds Southern Baptists together, Charles Fuller told Baptist associational leaders meeting here May 11-13.

Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va. and chairman of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee, addressed the associational leaders one week after the first Southern Baptist Conference on Biblical Inerrancy held at the same location, where scholars gathered to discuss and debate the issue dividing Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists' commitment to evangelism should be their main business, although their beliefs are very important, said Fuller in

reference to the eight-year controversy in SBC life.

"Some of us have been so involved in political matters in the denomination that we ought to be embarrassed," added Fuller, calling on associational leaders to make a fresh commitment to their ministry.

"Our primary goal should be winning the lost," or non-Christians, to faith, he said.

Fuller added Southern Baptists should not confuse "our way as being the only way" when carrying out the tasks of missions and evangelism.

"Evangelism and missions," he added, "is not a style or method but an assignment. Preaching is not the only way to do evangelism."

## Gulfshore Summer Conferences — 1987

There is still space available in the conferences listed below and time to register for any one of them.

May 25-29, I Youth; May 29-June 2, II Youth; June 12-16, V Youth; June 25-27, Church Training Leadership; June 29-July 3, Family Enrichment; July 6-8, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, July 9-13, I Youth Music; July 13-17, II Youth Music; July 23-25, Music Leadership; July 27-29, I Sunday School Leadership; July 30-Aug. 1, II Sunday School Leadership; Aug. 3-5, III Sunday School Leadership; Aug. 6-8, IV Sunday School Leadership; Aug. 13-17, IX Youth; Aug. 18-22, IV Senior adult.

For reservations contact: Frank Simmons, manager; Gulfshore Baptist Assembly; Henderson Point; Pass Christian, MS 39571; phone: (601) 452-7261.

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## Pioneers in Guatemala

The place was the border between Mexico and Guatemala. The face was that of Jane Averett Parker. I had not seen her in the twenty years since she and I had studied together at Southwestern Seminary (that was where she had met her husband, Wendall). Yet she had changed little. She was the same slender, smiling, soft spoken Jane, a blonde with blue eyes and thick dark eyebrows. I had known her first at Judson College (her parents were missionaries to the Indians in south Alabama.)

Orvil and Alma Reid had driven Margaret Fry and me over the mountains from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, to meet the Parkers at the border. It was November 30, 1974.

I did not visit Las Casas, where Jane and Wendall lived and worked many years with the K'ekchi' Indians. My reason for bringing all this up is that now Jane and Wendall have left Las Casas and are pioneering a Baptist ministry among the Mam Indians, Guatemala's second largest indigenous group.

Until their new house could be completed, they lived in a small apartment in Quezaltenango. Then on March 19, 1987, they moved to the Mam village of Toninchun.

Jane wrote in a recent letter, "Toninchun is located on the side of a mountain so that the wind, plus the 8,000 feet altitude make for a much cooler climate than where we lived in

Las Casas. Volcano Tajumulco soars above Toninchun and from our door we can also see Volcano Tacana, the Guatemala-Mexico boundary at that point." (That is the volcano I saw, I believe, the day I crossed the border.) "Little by little we are adjusting to the high altitude and cold, after living for many years in the tropics."

Though Mam and K'ekchi' are both Mayan languages, Jane said that they are quite different. The Parkers' language teacher was a bi-lingual school teacher near Toninchun who studied and analyzed the Mam dialect.

Another couple — new missionaries — will be working with Jane and Wendall. They are Keith and Penny Stamps! They arrived April 2. Keith is the son of Glenda and Stanley Stamps, Mississippians who are missionaries in Honduras (and formerly were in Ecuador and Nicaragua). Penny is the daughter of missionaries of Ecuador, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Turner of Texas.

I've known Glenda and Stanley Stamps a long time (he has shared with me quite a few ideas for columns). Hence, I was interested to see an article about them in a recent newsletter, from Southwestern Seminary. They traveled 1,500 miles from Honduras to Texas to wave "goodbye" to Keith, who was moving 1,300 miles closer to them.

"Like all parents of missionaries we

wanted the satisfaction and joy of seeing Keith, Penny, Timothy, and Angela off to the mission field," Stanley said.

(Glenda and Stanley's daughter, Rhonda, a Southwestern student, is a foreign missions volunteer, too.)

Keith and Penny already speak Spanish and so did not need to go to language school. However, they will study the Mam language in Toninchun. The primitive community they will be living in won't be like the modern cities where they grew up.

They spent ten weeks with a Mexican family in Nueva Rosita, Mexico, in training for living in another culture. They were the first SBC missionaries to undergo this program operated by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe Bible Translators.)

In the article, "Stamps Family Sticks to Missions," Keith gave credit for his positive outlook on missions to his parents' "good attitude about what they were doing in Latin America."

"As a child and teenager my eyes and heart were opened to the masses of people who desperately needed the gospel," he said. "Engraved in my memory is the time a peasant came to my father and begged him to send someone from the small Bible institute to preach the gospel in his village — but there was no one to send."

"How can I not go?" he asks now.



# SCRAPBOOK

## Hold my hand

When the day's been less than great,  
With each hour I'm running late,  
Missing love and finding hate,  
Hold my hand.

When ole trouble troubles me,  
Hope with peace together flee,  
And the end I cannot see,  
Hold my hand.

When I rush into the night,  
Darkness swallowing the light,  
And just living is a fight,  
Hold my hand.

When I'm scared and call on You,  
Lean upon your promise true,  
What's the first thing that You do?  
Hold my hand.

—Mrs. D. F. Crowe  
Greenville

## Give me a dream

Give me a dream, Lord, as I grow old  
A dream I can dream when the world is cold  
A dream filled with warmth and lots of love,  
To guide and direct me to my home above.

Give me a dream to wrap myself in  
That I can feel needed and wanted and then  
That I can have insight for my fellow man  
To pray for him daily, not just now and then.

Give me a dream that I can be great  
That with God's help I can master my fate  
Mean something to someone before it's too late  
Give me a dream Lord; don't make me wait!

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager  
State Line

## Will get Jerry Clower award

## Kentucky R.A. wins speak-out

MEMPHIS — Tony Carney, a Pioneer Royal Ambassador from Mount Washington, Ky., has been selected as the winner of the 1987 National Royal Ambassador Missions Speak Out competition. The competition is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, SBC.

Carney, a junior at Bullitt East High School in Mount Washington, won the award in competition with finalists who represented nine SBC state conventions. Carney's five

minute, original speech was entitled, "Sharing Christ With Others."

As the national winner, Carney will receive an expense-paid trip to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo., where he will deliver his winning speech during the annual Brotherhood breakfast on June 17.

More than 200 people will attend the breakfast where Tandy Rice, chief executive officer of Top Billing, Inc., will present the National Jerry Clower

Award to Carney. The award is named in honor of the Christian comedian from Yazoo City, who endorses and supports the Royal Ambassador Speak Out.

He will also receive a college scholarship, presented by the trustees of the Brotherhood Commission, and a Royal Ambassador blazer.

Tony Carney is an active member of Pioneer Royal Ambassadors at King's Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky.

## Brotherhood Commission trustees OK interim restructure, set budget

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission voted to approve a restructure of the commission staff on an interim basis and approved an operating budget of almost \$3.3 million for 1987-88 during their spring meeting here, April 24-25.

The restructure will reduce the agency's major sections of work from three to two. Business services and support services will merge into one section which will retain the name of support services. The other section will remain program services.

While trustees expressed their confidence in the make-up of the new structure, they recommended that it be set up on an interim basis with the commission executive committee to

review it during their meeting in St. Louis in June. The executive committee will then take a final recommendation to the full board of trustees in October for its evaluation.

Since the Brotherhood Commission's 1987-88 budget goes into effect Oct. 1, three weeks before the full board meets, trustees approved the 1987-88 operating budget under the new structure.

Program services, under the leadership of Norman Godfrey, houses the children and youth department, adult department, church relations department, world missions conferences and associational relationships, and graphics services.

Support services, directed by Jack Childs, includes marketing services,

computer services, accounting services, customer services, purchasing, in-house printing, and shipping and receiving.

In reference to sweeping changes in the Brotherhood curriculum effective this fall, Godfrey reported that 812 people have been trained in the new program materials during seven Brotherhood regional skills conferences conducted throughout the United States.

Trustees also heard reports on the Brotherhood Commission's involvement in funding a professor on laymen's work at the Korean Baptist Seminary in Taejon on the National Fellowship of Baptist Men and on staff participation in the 1987 Baptist World Alliance world congress in Cardiff, Wales.

## Off the Record

One morning a man requested one fried egg and one scrambled egg for breakfast. His wife, eager to please, prepared both and served them. When he saw his plate, the man looked at his wife and said, "You scrambled the wrong egg."

## Staff Changes



Ballard

Stan Ballard has resigned as pastor of Chester Church, Ackerman, where he has served since January, 1982. Effective June 1 he became the pastor of Nettleton Church, Jonesboro, Ark.

First Church, Oxford, ordained Mark C. Jackson to the gospel ministry, May 3. Jackson served as interim minister of youth and activities since October 1985.

Johnson Creek, George-Greene Association, has called Fowzy Shorosh as interim pastor. He and his family live near Waynesboro.

Raymond Church, Raymond has called Ronald G. Kegley Sr. as full-time minister of music/activities. Kegley previously served as part-time minister of music.

The church also called Maxine Nolen as church pianist. Susan Robinson is organist.

Raymond Church recently installed an Allen 603 organ.

McCool Church (Attala), has called Levon Moore as interim pastor. Moore, retired director of missions and former pastor for many years, lives in Kosciusko.

Jeff Jones will be the summer minister to youth at Forest Church. He began work there May 31.

Harold Smith Jr. is summer minister to youth at First Church, Crystal Springs.

## Unprecedented input is sought for new hymnal

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — A new Southern Baptist hymnal expected to reflect "unprecedented input" from denominational members will be released by the Sunday School Board in 1991.

Wesley L. Forbis, director of the board's church music department and editor-in-chief of the hymnal, said a random sampling opinion research project will be conducted by the board's research services department.

Additional research questionnaires distributed throughout the summer at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers and through state music secretaries will provide "unprecedented input from the grass roots of Southern Baptists," he said.

"Informally," he added, "Southern Baptists are encouraged to participate by submitting original hymns and by sending us their preferences in hymnal content."

The hymnal is expected to reflect "a unity in evangelistic message and the diversity of worship practices that characterize music in Southern Baptist churches," Forbis said.

Forbis also announced the selection of Terry W. York as hymnal project coordinator. York has been a youth and adult music consultant and a literary design editor during his three years in the church music department.

Publication of the hymnal will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Sunday School Board and the 50th anniversary of the church music department.

Official unveiling of the hymnal is planned for March 11-14, 1991, during PraiSing II, a four-day celebration in Nashville of the church music department's jubilee.

Forbis said theology of the new hymnal will be foremost in determining works for inclusion. A committee on theology and doctrine will be chosen, and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement will be the basis for textual decisions.

"Each text will be examined line by line," he said, "and only those texts

which meet the test of the Baptist Faith and Message will be included in the hymnal."

Forbis said there is no plan to rewrite texts to more frequently sung traditional hymns because of the desire "to preserve the historical context in which they were written, preserve our Christian heritage and to avoid imposing forced and artificial poetic structure."

"In keeping with the long-standing, Judeo-Christian concept of God, texts will reflect the Fatherhood of God and the priesthood of all believers," he said.

Content is expected to come from published hymnals, song books, excerpts of larger musical works, adaptations, folk music, newly created materials, various mission fields, unsolicited manuscripts, and commissioned works.

Suggestions about the new hymnal should be addressed to Hymnal, MSN 170, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Just remember the world is not a playground but a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday but an education. One eternal lesson for us all: to teach us how better we should love. — Barbara Jordan

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## Mississippi Baptist activities

- June 7 Religious Liberty Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
- Baptist Record Sunday (BR Emphasis in each church)
- June 8-12 RA Camp Staff Orientation Week; Central Hills Retreat (BRO)



# Ministers who elected out of SS can get back in

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 permits ministers who previously elected out of Social Security coverage to make an irrevocable election back into Social Security coverage. Filing Form 2031 is required.

Though ministers generally will have until April 15, 1988, to make this election, a Southern Baptist Annuity Board spokesman suggests, "the earlier could be the better."

"The central issue," said Thomas E. Miller Jr., director of communications for the Board, "is the number of quarters of coverage required for the various benefits of Social Security."

"Even if a minister needs to file an amended return for the 1986 income tax," said Miller, "he should carefully consider the quarters of coverage he would gain. Ministers born in 1929 or earlier and those who turned 21 in 1959 or later will require less than the normal 40 quarters of coverage to be fully insured."

Social Security benefits may be paid in three general circumstances: after you retire; after you become disabled; after you die.

In addition, monthly benefits may be paid to your family after your retirement or disability or death. Family members benefiting could be spouse, children, grandchildren and parents.

Medicare benefits also may be payable to you and your family.

The number of quarters of coverage necessary and the time period within which those quarters of coverage must have been earned varies depending on the type of benefit. There

are three tests for eligibility: fully insured, currently insured, and insured for disability.

## Fully Insured

If you are fully insured you are eligible for retirement benefits and your family is eligible for survivor benefits after your death. Also, being fully insured is one of two requirements that must be met to be eligible for disability benefits.

Any quarter of coverage, no matter when you earned it, counts toward the number you must have to be fully insured.

You can be certain you are fully insured for retirement if you have 40 quarters of coverage. However, persons who reach age 62 before 1991 need fewer than 40 quarters of coverage to be fully insured for retirement. This is a consideration made for older people.

If you were born in 1929 or earlier, the number of quarters of coverage must equal at least the number of whole calendar years from 1951 through the year before the year being checked. For example, if you were born in 1929 or before, you are fully insured in 1987 if you have 36 quarters of coverage — the years in 1951-1986.

To be fully insured for death and disability benefits may also require fewer than 40 quarters of coverage. This is an allowance for younger people and for people who haven't been in the work force very long.

If you were born after 1929, the number of quarters of coverage must equal the number of whole calendar

years after the year you turned age 21 and through the year before the year being checked.

For example, if you turned 21 in 1959, you are fully insured in 1987 if you have at least 27 quarters of coverage — the years in 1960-1986. In all events, you must have at least six quarters of coverage to be fully insured.

## Currently Insured

If you are currently insured, some types of survivor benefits will be paid even if you are fully insured. In general, to be currently insured you must have six quarters of coverage which must have been earned within the 13 calendar quarters ending with the calendar quarter of your death.

## Insured For Disability

You must first be fully insured to receive disability benefits. You must also be insured for disability. Your disability eligibility depends upon your age at the time of your disability. The number of quarters of coverage required ranges from 20 for ministers age 31 or over to as few as six for a minister under age 24. There also are requirements for when these quarters of coverage were earned.

The Annuity Board will supply a step-by-step guide for electing back into Social Security effective Jan. 1, 1986, or Jan. 1, 1987.

The guide explains the process for filing the election before a tax return, with a tax return, or after a tax return.

Call 1-800-262-0511 and ask for the Guide for Filing Form 2031.

# Historical Commission OKs budgets, bylaws, pamphlets

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission have approved several budget recommendations, authorized the development of a plan for a pamphlet series and created a bylaw revision on open board meetings.

The action came April 20 during a business meeting prior to the April 21-22 joint annual meeting of the commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The conference, held at the national headquarters of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., drew more than 350 participants.

Trustees approved a scaled-down budget for the 1987-88 year. It includes a \$453,000 Cooperative Program allocation, which is \$48,220 less than the amount requested last year. It also includes \$83,750 in product sales and investment income. The proposed budget is \$14,950 less than the current budget of \$551,700.

Trustees authorized commission Executive Director Lynn E. May to seek \$519,750 in Southern Baptist Cooperative Program funding to help meet the 1988-89 budget of \$604,240.

The approved pamphlet series will explore Southern Baptist convictions from a historical perspective. Possi-

ble topics include the lordship of Christ, the priesthood of believers and the autonomy of the local church.

The bylaw revision adopted by the commission allows "any interested Southern Baptist" access to "all meetings of the Historical Commission and its committees." The bylaw allows an executive session to be called only when "sensitive personnel matters" need to be discussed.

Trustees adopted the revision after considering a request from the Southern Baptist Press Association that urged convention agency trustees to review their bylaws to "make certain that executive sessions and closed business discussions are absolutely unacceptable except when sensitive personnel matters are concerned."

New officers of the Historical Commission are Ronald F. Deering, librarian at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., chairman; Waldo P. Harris III, retired director of missions for the Georgia Baptist Association in Georgia, vice chairman; Marlene Hunt Rikard, professor of history at Samford University, recording secretary; and May, treasurer.

Throughout the conference, speakers addressed various issues relating to the theme, "Women in

Southern Baptist History."

In tracing patterns of ministry among Baptist women, Carolyn Blevins expressed concern about the declining number of women in leadership positions in Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. Blevins is assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman College and was 1986-87 president of the Historical Society.

"In 1952, 14 percent of the leadership positions were filled by women. Thirty-two years later, in 1984, after a decade of emphasis on women's issues, women held 1 percent fewer leadership positions than they had in 1952," she said.

Of those women who work in denominational positions, their careers are "merely 9-to-5 jobs," Blevins said. "They are crucial forms of ministry."

A survey of women convention employees in 1978 revealed that 38 percent felt God led them to their particular jobs, she said. And 68 percent felt called of God to do the work they were doing.

Yet that same survey uncovered "substantial dissatisfaction with the ability of women to make a career advance in their agencies," she noted.

Thursday, June 4, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

# Deaths prompt Chileans to ask why

Baptists in Chile have faced "the inevitable question" in the weeks after two Baptist leaders were killed in traffic accidents: "Why these, Lord?" Nester Novoa, president of the pastor's conference, was killed in an accident as he was driving home from a week-long pastor's camp.

A week later, Juan Moya, Chilean Baptists' camp director and statistical secretary, and his son were killed in another accident. The question of why "springs from the dark depths of the unknown in the face of apparent tragedy," notes Caroline Jones, a Southern Baptist missionary in Puerto Varas, Chile. God "keeps saying to us: 'Death is not the end.'"

# Court rules: Jews, Arabs qualify under anti-bias laws

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court ruled May 18 that Jews and Arabs qualify as racial minorities under a 19th century federal law banning discrimination.

A unanimous high court held that because members of Congress who

enacted the 1870 law intended to include a wide variety of ethnic and religious groups considered at the time to be racial minorities, such groups are protected from discrimination today despite the fact that many of their members now are considered Caucasians.

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# Names in the News



## Senior Adult Corner

New Hope Church (Lee County) honored its senior adults, May 3, with corsages and later with a fish supper. The choir, composed of all senior adults rendered special music for the worship services.

Pictured, left to right, front row, are Kenny Simmons, minister of music, Pearl Oswalt, Frances Morgan, Fannie Russell, Billie Collier, Verlon Collier, Ophie Snipes, Grace Oswalt, and Rickey Blythe, pastor.

Top row, A. W. Lamb, D. E. Oswalt, Lucille Lamb, S. S. Kelley, Balcie Snipes, Lavelle Kelley, Adelle Hoffman, Orilla Gunter, Verna Davis, Nolen Hughes, Hazel Montague, and Lillian Young.

## Revival Dates

**Bethel (Copiah):** June 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; weekdays, 7:30 nightly; Danny Watkins, pastor; Shady Grove, Hazlehurst, evangelist.

**Good Hope (Leake):** June 14-19; Howard Benton, pastor, Eastside, Pearl, evangelist; Mark Gunn, Brandon, music; Brenda Chennault, pianist; Paula O'Bannon, organist; Odell Tebo, pastor.

**Crossroads (Neshoba):** June 14-19; services, 10:30 a.m., 7 p.m.; Hugh Martin, Philadelphia, evangelist; Sidney W. Thompson, pastor.

**Old Pearl Valley, Philadelphia:** June 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m., lunch in fellowship hall at noon; Mon.-Fri., 7 nightly; Gene Douglass, pastor, Palestine Church, Simpson Co., evangelist; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor, leading music; special music by the Valley Christians of Old Pearl Valley.

**Coila, (Carroll):** June 7-12; revival and homecoming; Sunday services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, 12:30; after lunch, gospel singing, "The Dixie Harmony Boys;" church training, 6 p.m., worship services, 7 p.m.; Terry Ruinlans, Mendenhall, evangelist; Billy Blakeley, pastor; Mon.-Fri., 8 p.m.

## Homecomings

**White Bluff (Marion):** June 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., with former pastor Bobby Speights, preaching; lunch at noon on church grounds; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m., testimonies and singing under direction of James E. Branton, church music director, and Mack Davis, pianist; Marvin Graham, pastor.

**Bowlin, Sallis:** June 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; lunch to follow; James McNeer of Louisiana, guest speaker; V. B. Keith, music; Johnny Parks, pastor.

**Interstate (Bolivar):** June 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Elvis Vance, Mt. Zion, Eupora, speaker; afternoon services, 1 p.m.; special music and Memorial Day program; Robert Haney, pastor.

**Rehobeth, nine miles north of Pelahatchie:** June 14; regular morning services with short business meeting, offering will go for the upkeep of cemetery; dinner on the grounds; "Gospel Classics" singing in afternoon; Robert Gillis, pastor.

First Church, Oxford, ordained Mark C. Jackson to the gospel ministry, May 3. Jackson served as interim minister of youth and activities since October 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edwin Hewlett will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception from 2 to 5 p.m., June 14 at Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlon Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. Hosting will be their children, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hewlett, Jr., of Picayune, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Taylor of Rochester, N.Y., and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Winscott of Prentiss.

Hewlett served in the pastorate of the Southwest Baptist Church from January, 1944 through August, 1978. Upon retirement from that position, they relocated in the Rochester, N.Y. area under the sponsorship of the Mission Service Corps of the Southern Baptist Convention. With the support of churches throughout the convention, Hewlett organized and is presently pastoring the Metro Baptist Church in Rochester. He recently completed a two-year tenure as president of the New York State Baptist Convention.

Letters of congratulations are requested in lieu of gifts.

**OSLO, NORWAY —** Asbjorn Hager, former General Secretary of the Norwegian Baptist Unions' Youth Department, has been awarded the Andreas Award for his work in using films as a medium for evangelism. The Andreas Award was established in 1985 in order to stimulate the production and use of good quality films which have a Christian view of humankind.

John and Claudia Brown, missionaries to Mozambique, are currently in language school in Lisbon, Portugal. John is a native of Star City, Ark., and Claudia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Tenney, members of Parkway Church, Jackson. Their address on the field is: Celula 15, Bloco G, Lote 2, 8 Esq., Carnaxide, 2795 Linda-a-Velha, Portugal.

Donald and Teresa Bolls, missionaries to the Niger Republic, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 7, Box 23, Jackson, Miss. 39209), his hometown. She is the former Teresa Downey of Grady, N.M.

church employees, are on the increase. Addressing the topic "Bapist Polity and the Law," former Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen observed early Baptists did not plan for today's litigious society.

"The founders faced other problems, and lawsuits were very low on their list of priorities," he said. However, the convention has emerged into a part of the establishment, into a complex society and a fragmented pluralism.

Although traditional churches have been separated from an association's legal problems, and associations from legal problems of state conventions and the SBC, not one of these units

will be protected from the vulnerability churches are increasingly experiencing, he noted: "Individual units will not be protected from their problems because of congregational polity. The church can be expected to be challenged at many points."

Former Alabama Gov. Albert Brewer, attorney and layman in Decatur, Ala., encouraged pastors to not be alarmed by the fear or threat of lawsuits: "You be God's person in your ministry to human need. You use discretion, good judgment and sound business practices in your administrative responsibilities, and you will free yourself to respond to these human needs."



Betty Smith of Jackson recently attended the 1987 Writers' Conference at Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, in Birmingham, Ala. She has accepted an assignment to write for GA magazines, *Discovery* and *Aware*. More than 60 writers from all over the United States participated in workshops which gave instruction and preparation for writing materials for 1988-89. Miss Smith is secretary to Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. Also she is editor of the WMU newspaper, *Alongside*.

Pearl Hill Church, Leake Association, recently honored Terry Pilgrim, wife of Eddie Pilgrim, pastor, with "Pastor's Wife Appreciation Day." She was presented a new dress for the occasion.

Terry Lee Williams, pastor of Mantee Church, received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.; on May 15. Graduation ceremonies were held at First Church, Jacksonville. Homer G. Lindsay Jr., pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, was commencement speaker. Williams is also a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Norrie Coxwell of Waynesboro. They have one son, Nathaniel Lee Williams. Williams is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Williams of Wayne County.

**JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) —** James W. Edwards, senior vice president for finance of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will become vice president of academic affairs and dean of Union University, effective June 1.

Edwards, who for three and a half years, has been the senior vice president of finance and, for 15 months, chief operating officer of the RTVC, also will be professor of economics and finance in the business department of Union, a 1,500 student undergraduate college affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

At the RTVC, he was instrumental in helping the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency launch a national television network, ACTS, and in keeping the fledgling network financially viable during its most critical periods.

Edwards will continue to be a part-time consultant and vice president of development services for ACTS.

## Missionary News

Nita and Charlie Boudreaux, missionaries to Guyana from Mississippi, have a new son, Aaron Michael, born March 12. He weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. The family may be addressed at Guyana Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 10131, Georgetown, Guyana, South America.

George and Doris Berry, missionaries to Uganda since 1984, resigned from missionary service. The Foreign Mission Board approved their resignation at its April meeting. Stationed in Kampala, Uganda, he served as business manager, and she was a church and home worker. They are

South Carolina natives. They may be addressed at 27 Kimberly Dr., Laurel, Miss. 39440.

Carl and Lillian Prewitt, missionaries to the Philippines, are in the States on furlough. They are natives of Mississippi. The address printed in the May 28 issue of the *Baptist Record* is no longer correct. They are now living at 442 Cummins St., Jackson, MS 39204.

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## "Church immunity from liability is gone"

(Continued from page 3)

is a pre-determined authority and that everybody's rights will be observed," said Walker. However, he cautioned, when parliamentary procedure is used to thwart participation, its purpose is being misused and abused.

Insurance representatives advised the group to carry adequate and proper insurance. Advice included obtaining written parental consent for each specific event a child participates in and making certain that supervisors are qualified.

Also, said a representative, cases involving sexual misconduct, most often committed by



# Fire destroys sanctuary in Jefferson City, Mo.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — A spectacular two-alarm fire destroyed the sanctuary and the top floor of the adjoining administrative building of First Baptist Church here, on May 24.

More than 250 people were attending the church's Sunday evening worship service when the fire was discovered about 7:25. It raged for more than six hours before fire fighters from Jefferson City, Columbia, and Boone County could bring it under control.

Fire marshals said the fire started beneath the choir loft in the 1,200-seat auditorium. The \$3 million auditorium facility, dedicated in October 1985, was

among the newest and largest Missouri Baptist worship facilities.

Cause of the fire was listed as accidental, although fire officials refused to rule out faulty electrical wiring.

Firemen were able to keep the fire out of the church's adjoining four-story educational building, but they could not keep it off the administrative building roof. About midnight, the steel beams in the administrative building buckled from the heat and collapsed, sending a fireball hundreds of feet into the air. However, fire fighters were able to contain the blaze to the top floor of the attached three-story building.

## Home Board elects two, appoints 27 missionaries

ATLANTA (BP) — The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected two staff members and appointed 27 missionaries during its May meeting.

Bill Graham, who has been associate director of the missionary personnel department since 1983, was promoted to director of the department. He will be responsible for recruitment, screening, and orientation of all candidates for missionary appointment by the board.

Graham succeeds Irvin Dawson

who became a national consultant for missions development field servicing. Jerry Carl Wolverton of Nashville was elected to the new position of associate director of marketing services. Wolverton, former sales promotion supervisor for the SBC Sunday School Board, will assist with development of marketing strategy for the board's products and programs.

Directors also appointed 12 missionaries, nine missionary associates, and six church planter apprentices.

## High court hears argument in employment exemption

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The attorney for seven former employees of Mormon Church-owned businesses in Utah attempted to convince the nation's highest court that a 1972 congressional exemption in the Civil Rights Act provides churches was an unconstitutional means for "economical coercion" of their employees.

But attorneys for the Mormon Church and the federal government argued Congress was correct in exempting churches from compliance with a ban on employment discrimination based on religion.

The dispute involves seven employees who were fired from Mor-

mon Church-owned businesses after they failed to qualify for a special church status that requires regular church attendance and tithing. The fired workers mounted a court challenge to the constitutionality of the 1972 amendment to the federal civil rights law.

When enacted by Congress in 1964, the Civil Rights Act provided that religious employers could restrict their employment to "individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with . . . (their) religious activities." When Congress rewrote and extended the law in 1972, it deleted the word "religious" from the exemption.

## Just for the Record



Lincoln Road Church, Lebanon Association, recently held ground breaking ceremonies and the first anniversary of the church. At the same time, a note burning was held celebrating the property debt free.

Lincoln Road Church is meeting temporarily in Thames School on Jamestown Road in Hattiesburg: Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., morning worship, 11 a.m., evening worship 6 p.m.,

First Church of Runnelstown, Hattiesburg, will hold Vacation Bible School, June 8-12 for age groups, nursery - age 11. Daily classes will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mrs. Teollie Shoemaker will be director. Henry Freeman is pastor.

## Mississippi Baptists help rebuild church

Southern Baptists are helping to rebuild a black Baptist church in the Jenkins Community east of Ellisville. The Oak Grove Baptist Church was flattened by the Feb. 28 tornado that hit Jones County.

Lamar Association, as well as other churches in the area are leading in the rebuilding project and Jones Association and individual churches are raising funds for it.

Jones director of missions Maurice Flowers reports the church needs some pulpit furniture and pews, with maximum length of about 10 feet.

## Homecoming to mark Cleveland's centennial

First Church, Cleveland, is celebrating its 100th year. An old-fashioned homecoming on June 28 will climax the celebration.

A history of the church, written by Jack Gunn, Mrs. Mary Ann Odom, J. S. White, will be available during the homecoming. A collection of memorabilia will be on display.

Former pastors Charlie Webb and W. H. Clarke will be present and Macklyn Hubbell and Lewis I. Myers Jr. will speak.

One feature of homecoming will be "dinner on the ground." For more information, contact the church office or Andy Jones, chairman of the homecoming committee.



Crowder Church, Crowder, passed its goal of 250 in Sunday School on Easter Sunday, with 289 present. The previous high attendance was 244. Anthony Atkinson won the prize for inviting the most people to Sunday School, which was to get his picture in the Baptist Record.

Pictured, left to right, are Garry Cannon, Sunday School director; Atkinson, and Harvey Sewell, pastor.

## First, Winona, will celebrate 150th year

First Church, Winona, will observe its 150th anniversary, June 14. Regular Sunday services, with dinner on the grounds and an afternoon service. Joseph Flowers, retired Mississippi pastor now retired living in Virginia, evangelist for morning service. C. B. Hamlett, Hattiesburg, and Kermit McGregor, Jackson, will be on program in afternoon service. Jerry Mixon, pastor.

## Revival Results

Pearl Hill, Carthage: April 24-26; three by letter; 10 rededications; Lee Hudson, Freney Church, pastor, evangelist; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor.

and mid-week prayer service, Wed., at 7 p.m. The new church building structure is expected to be completed by mid-July.

Pictured, front row, are C. B. Hamlet, III, former interim pastor; Joel D. Ray, missions director of Lebanon Association; Charlie Brooks, Trustmark Bank; Barry Clingan, pastor; Tom Saucier, general contractor, and Kenneth Megehee.

Walker Hill, Brandon, will dedicate its new sanctuary, June 7. The church is located seven miles south of Brandon on Shell Oil Road.

Morning worship, 11 a.m., Chester Vaughn, program director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, guest speaker. Following morning worship there will be dinner on the grounds. Dedication services, 2 p.m. Kent Shirley, former pastor, and J. C. Renfro, director of missions, Rankin Association, along with others will be guests.

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## Staff Changes

Jim Chatham has accepted the call to become pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, effective June 8. He is associate pastor of Germantown Church, Germantown, Tenn. Formerly he had served as pastor, minister of education, and minister of youth in other Tennessee churches. He holds the doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary, master of divinity from Southwestern Seminary, and bachelor arts from Union University. He and his wife, Glenda, have three children, Jamie

Elizabeth; Rebekah Karen, and Anna Katherine.

Juarez (Rez) Johnson Jr., former staff member of First Church, Jackson, has become the associate minister of activities at Richardson Heights Church, Richardson, Texas.

Johnson, a graduate of Mississippi College and a student at Southwestern Seminary, served six years on the recreation staff at First Church, Jackson, as assistant and later interim associate minister of activities.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Paul was eager to take the gospel message to Rome

By Robert M. Hanvey  
Romans 1:1-17

During the course of this month, we will be studying four lessons from Unit 1 of our uniform series having to do with the theme, "The Righteousness of God." Unit 1 is entitled, "Justified Through Faith." We recognize immediately that it is by faith that we come to Christ and that it is saving faith which justifies us or declares us righteous before Almighty God. The lessons in this particular unit deal with sharing the gospel, acknowledging that all persons are without excuse before God for their sin. Recognizing that our goodness is not enough to gain salvation and accepting God's forgiveness through Christ Jesus is the way to salvation.



Hanvey

The focal passage for this week's lesson is found in Romans 1:1-17. May I share with you verse 17? "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." We walk by faith and not by sight. We walk in the faith which is ours in Christ Jesus and not by physical sight. We try to understand that our

### UNIFORM

faith is that which guides us, delivers us, takes us through all manners of difficulties, and offers to you and to me a challenge in everyday living. Christians should be eager to share their faith in Christ Jesus by offering the gospel of the Good News to others. Adults will summarize what the gospel is in the lesson today and plan to share it with others as God gives the precious opportunity.

When the book of Romans is studied, and in particular when we look at our focal passage for today, we understand that Paul described himself as an apostle sent to proclaim the gospel to others. Paul sensed that his initial calling was to the house of Israel, or to his own, and ultimately he was to be sent to the Gentiles. Paul asserted that the gospel was about Jesus Christ who was of the seed of David, and who had been declared to be the Son of God. As far as the Apostle Paul was concerned, there was no doubting this particular assertion. There was no compromising this assertion. There was no way of diluting it for him.

Paul longed to go to Rome to share with the Christians there what his faith was all about,

and to be able to impart the gift of his ministry and encouragement to them. Not only would he want to impart that ministry of encouragement but he would also want to share the gospel of the Good News with those with whom he spoke. He was always eager to preach. He was eager to preach in Rome because he felt an obligation to witness to all persons.

You will recall that Paul was a person of dual citizenship, both Jew and Greek. Paul knew the power of the gospel in bringing salvation to all who would believe. He had experienced that great gift of salvation in Christ Jesus for himself. He knew what it would do. He knew what it would change in a person. He knew the new directions it would give. He knew how to live and walk by faith and not by sight.

As those who study the Bible lesson for this week, we seek a purpose for our lives and we seek direction through studying God's Word to the Romans. We seek how we might proclaim the gospel to all people. Adults who do not understand what the gospel is can, of course, learn today that the gospel is the Good News of Christ; it is the message of faith; it is hope; it is grace; and by looking at and studying from the book of Romans one will understand how to share that gospel.

I feel reasonably sure, and so do you, that adults can be encouraged to share the gospel with others by just simply looking at the example which the Apostle Paul offered to those with whom he worked, with those to whom he ministered, with those with whom he walked. He was a great man of God; a great man of spiritual stature; a man who loved the Lord and was eager always to share the Lord.

We need to emphasize the opportunity for personal soul-winning and personal witnessing throughout our Sunday Schools and throughout the other organizations of our churches. Let us do the ongoing work of outreach to people, with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to reach people from all walks of life and from all stations in life. Every Christian has that role of outreach in ministry.

We are concerned about missions around the world, and Bold Mission Thrust consumes our thinking as Southern Baptists. We do a great deal through the cooperation of our thousands of churches in our convention. Our Cooperative Program is the link through which we are able to offer help to so many. We do have a gospel to share just like Paul. Our privilege is to do so.

Robert M. Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

## Songs of thanksgiving and faith offer praise

By Charles Wesley

Psalms 107:1-8; 118:19-24; 121:1-8

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." The words of that familiar hymn



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remind us that we should remember the specific ways God has benefited our lives. Furthermore, the Apostle Paul declares that a continual spirit of thanksgiving is the will of God for us: "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes. 5:18, NASB).

Of all people, Christians ought to be the most thankful because they have experienced God's salvation. However, through the years of my ministry, I have encountered Christians who possessed a constant spirit of bitterness and selfishness instead of a spirit of joyous thanksgiving. The psalms we are studying this week points out the importance of thanksgiving. Moreover, the psalms to be studied

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challenge us to express our thanksgiving to God and give testimony of God's goodness.

The first psalm to be studied is Psalm 107:1-8. This psalm, which expresses thanksgiving for God's deliverance, was probably used in public worship. The psalm begins with a call to give thanks. Then the reason is given for the thanksgiving; the goodness of God as shown in his enduring mercy (107:1).

Next, "the redeemed of the Lord" are challenged to give testimony concerning their deliverance. A feeling of gratitude is not enough. A public declaration of what God has done is commanded. Nothing is needed in the contemporary church more than Christians giving testimony about the good works of God in their lives. Discouraged Christians need the encouragement that comes from hearing what God is doing in the lives of other Christians. Furthermore, unbelievers need to hear that God is active in today's world, and that God is in the

business of changing lives.

In Psalm 107, four examples of God's deliverance are given. The first example of deliverance is that of God delivering lost travelers (107:4-8). In their desperation they called for God's help. God answered by showing the way to a city where there would be safety, food, and lodging. God delivers people from peril. However, the greatest peril God delivers people from is eternity in hell. Christians should always give thanks for their deliverance from the condemnation of hell.

The second psalm to be studied is Psalm 118:19-24. Like the other psalm, Psalm 118 was a psalm used in worship. As the worshippers entered the gates of righteousness, they went into the temple with the purpose of offering praise to God for giving them victory. Even though they (the worshippers of Israel) were rejected as an unfit stone, God selected them as the most important stone in the building. Jesus used verse 22 to refer to himself. Jesus was rejected by men, but he was used by God to provide salvation for those who would trust Jesus as Savior. The psalmist saw the victory

as the work of God. Thus, they would celebrate the day of victory. We should give unceasing praise for the great salvation we have received as a result of the victory Christ won on the cross.

The third psalm to be studied is Psalm 121:1-8. This is a beautiful expression of thanksgiving for the protection and help given by God. The Creator of heaven and earth has the power to help those in distress. God would never sleep while protecting his people. Furthermore, God would protect Israel as the shade of a tree would protect someone from the rays of the sun and the light from the moon. The light from the moon was believed to cause insanity. In conclusion, the psalmist declares that God would protect his people from all evil wherever they journeyed. What a psalm for comfort for all of God's children.

Let us take the example set by the psalmist to challenge us to take advantage of every opportunity to give thanks and praise to God for the victories he has given us.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland.

## Peter sees a vision, is willing to change mind, heart

By Nathan L. Barber  
Acts 10:9-16, 28, 34,35

God often has to change the beliefs and prejudices of Christians to make them effective witnesses. Without a willingness to change,



Barber

Christians automatically limit what God is able to do in and through them. Peter is an excellent example of a devout and dedicated Christian whose witness and influence in the early church would have been greatly hindered if he had been unwilling to change according to God's guidance.

Peter was practicing what he had learned throughout his life as being correct for a good Jew. Perhaps he even considered that the vision was a test of his orthodoxy (soundness of faith; correctness of opinion or doctrine). The voice accompanying the vision told him to kill (or sacrifice) and eat. Peter's answer was straight from his Jewish background and heritage, "By no means, Lord, for I have never

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eaten anything unholy and unclean" (v. 14). The voice then reminded Peter that what God had cleansed was not to be considered as unholy or common. This happened three times before the vision was completed.

The vision puzzled Peter greatly. He wondered as to the meaning of these things which had been revealed to him. It was in the sequence of events which immediately followed the vision and eventually took him to the house of a Gentile named Cornelius that Peter finally realized what God was trying to teach him; "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears him and does what is right, is welcome to him" (vv. 34, 35). Such a declaration went against the beliefs and background of an orthodox Jew as much as being told to eat that which he had always viewed as common and unclean. God was leading Peter to recognize that there are no "unclean"

persons. He was coming to understand that God's message of salvation is for all races.

Israel of old had misunderstood God's covenant-call to be, "My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:5, 6). This did not mean that God loved Israel more than he loved all the other peoples of the world. Rather, it meant that because God loved all the peoples of the world, he called Israel to be his redemptive people through whom the Messiah would bless all the families of the earth. History, however, teaches that Israel came to believe that all other peoples were excluded from God's favor and blessings.

Peter was, certainly, a product of this kind of teaching. But in being willing to submit his conscience to God, Peter was able to overcome some false beliefs and racial prejudice. That which he had been taught by well-meaning people suddenly began to pale in significance as it was seen against the backdrop of God's love and mercy and grace.

God is always at work in the lives of Chris-

tians to overcome barriers which hinder them from being effective witnesses. Prejudice has always been one of the major barriers to witnessing. It was in Peter's day; it still is in this day and time. Peter was willing to respond in a positive way to God's leading in his life.

As a result of his response to God and his willingness to change, Peter discovered that God wanted to use him as an instrument of blessing in a manner which he never before considered possible. Peter knew for certain that it was God who had wanted to change his mind and heart. Now God would be able to bless not only Cornelius and those gathered with him but also Peter.

Peter would never be able to forget this life-changing learning experience. He would later write to fellow Christians and remind them, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Mrs. A. D. (Elvira Candice)  
Yarborough  
Ms. Augusta Peacock  
Mrs. D. B. Kitching  
Buddy & Toby Mitchell  
Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hardin  
Mrs. Lena Yopp  
TEL S.S. Class, FBC,  
Grenada  
**HONORS**  
Mrs. Lucille Brister  
Alathean S.S. Class, Collins,  
BC  
Mrs. Jennie Criswell  
TEL SS Class, Charleston,  
FBC  
Mrs. J. M. Furr  
Henry Lynch  
Mrs. Ruth Gullege  
Faith SS Class, FBC,  
Grenada  
Mrs. Margaret Hancock  
The Tommy Hancock Family  
Mrs. Pearl Heard  
Mrs. Ladell Kraft  
Bill & Minnie Lee Montgomery  
Obie & Hilda Germany  
Donna Shelton  
Peggy & Jimmy Stewart  
Elsie Stewart  
Peggy & Jimmy Stewart  
Mrs. Clyde Tilghman  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton  
Edmondson

The Children's Village congratulates all 1987 high school graduates. We are pleased this year that five of our Village youth have been awarded high school diplomas. We thank our friends for prayers, and monetary support for Ann, Debra, Tammi, Brenda, and John.



# Baptist Record

## Faith mixes with sorrow for families of Stark victims

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Barbara Kiser didn't waste any time forgiving the Iraqi fighter pilot who killed her husband. One day after Steve Kiser and 36 other crewmen on the USS Stark were killed by an Iraqi missile, Kiser sent a letter of forgiveness to the pilot who mistakenly fired at the Navy ship.

The letter was to be delivered to an official of Iraq's government, said Nevin Alwine, pastor of San Pablo Baptist Church here, where the Kisers are members.

Included with the letter is a copy of the New Testament in Arabic in which Mrs. Kiser marked Christ's words on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) Although the widow has not talked with reporters since the May 17 tragedy, she has called Alwine from the Persian Gulf every day since the attack to assure church members she is coping well. Her calls have "greatly comforted" the congregation, the pastor said.

For six weeks Mrs. Barbara Kiser and her 5-year-old son, John, have been in Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf, where the Stark frequently docked during its planned six-month tour of duty. The young family often followed Steve Kiser, an electronics mate, overseas in order to spend as much time with him as possible.

The morning of the deadly attack, which has been labeled accidental by the U.S. and Iraqi governments, Kiser and her son waved good-bye to their husband and father as the guided-missile frigate left Bahrain's port.

Alwine, who said he has been inspired by the widow's handling of the tragedy, said, "If you want to see what a Christian is really like, look at Barbara."

"As a matter of fact, Steve's dad, who has been an agnostic all his life, became a Christian three nights ago," the pastor said. The elder Kisers live in Elkhart, Ind.

Before his death, Steve Kiser tape-

recorded a devotional to send to his parents. Mrs. Kiser, who had not yet mailed the tape, played it during a memorial service aboard the Stark a few days after the attack.

The Kisers are among several Baptist families in the Jacksonville area who were deeply affected by the Stark tragedy.

Randy Pierce, 28, never saw his four-week-old son before the sailor died aboard the Stark. His 21-year-old wife, Diana, a member of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville Beach, was recognized as the youngest mother in the church on Mother's Day. Pierce, a data systems technician on the Stark, and his wife also have a three-year-old daughter.

Capt. Glenn Brindel, 43, skipper of the crippled ship, is a member of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. Brindel has been deeply troubled over the deaths, friends said.

Greg Warner is associate editor, the Florida Baptist Witness.

### Mother continues hoping for release of daughter

DALLAS (BP) — The Mozambiquean right-wing rebels have announced they will free seven captured foreigners, including Southern Baptist Kindra Bryan of Texas, seized from a mission farm in a central province of Mozambique.

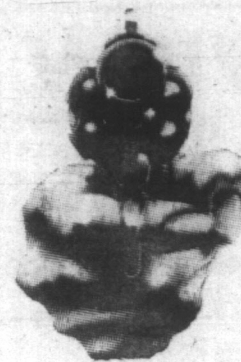
The group known as the Mozambiquean National Resistance stated May 20 in Lisbon, Spain, the seven whites would be freed with the help of international humanitarian organizations but did not specify when they would be released.

Bryan's mother, Mary Jo Free of College Station, Texas, said in a telephone interview May 27 that she had been assured her daughter was all right and was hopeful that she would soon be released.

"I am very, very grateful for all the prayers and concern for Kindra," Free said. She also requested people to "continue to pray for Kindra's safe release."

### Chilstrom chosen to lead Lutherans

COLUMBUS, Ohio (EP) — After nine ballots, Herbert W. Chilstrom of the Lutheran Church in America's (LCA) Minnesota Synod was elected May 1 as bishop of the new 5.3-million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).



## Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly as a loaded gun. Don't take chances with your life*

### Jobs in jeopardy

Of the different areas of life affected by the use of alcohol and drugs, job performance is one of the most outstanding. Employers and work organizations are rightly concerned when employees become problem drinkers or use drugs. For economic and personal reasons, employers and supervisors must deal with problems related to chemical consumption. The cost in lost production to industry for alcoholism alone was 19.64 billion dollars (NIAAA, Fourth Special Report to Congress, Jan. 1981). Health care and medical bills that are related amount to staggering sums. Companies invest in their workers thousands of dollars in training and experience. Decline in output, low morale, production errors, and absenteeism, if translated into dollars and cents, would make an impressive figure indeed.

There is a proven method for resolving many of these alcohol and drug related problems affecting the work place. An inexpensive approach is an employee assistance program that helps good management and labor relations, problem resolution, and maintains the employee's dignity and confidentiality. This program provides a return on the investment that

a business or organization has in its employees. Statistics show that when a worker is motivated to seek help by his employer, chances for arresting problems and return to a productive work are high. Supervisors may not be expected to diagnose alcohol or drug users. Supervisors focal attention is job performance. Their objective is the return of workers to work and at a high level of service. Professional help is often needed to assist persons whose production has declined and are not able to function well on the job. Company counselors and local area and state persons who work in the field of chemical dependency may advise about treatment programs. The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center has an Employee Assistance Program. Further information can be secured by calling Jackson 1-800-962-6868, Gulfport (601) 864-2121.

Questions and comments addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Letters should be sent to: Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Decline in legal abortions sign of progress, says Baker

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A recent government analysis that shows a decline in the number of legal abortions in the United States for the first time since 1969 is a strong indication the efforts of Southern Baptists and other groups have not been in vain, said Larry Baker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The analysis released by the Centers for Disease Control shows that in 1969 when the centers first began a program of abortion surveillance, 22,670 legal abortions were reported. The number steadily increased, reaching a high in 1982 of 1,303,980.

In 1983 — the most recent year for which statistics are available — the number decreased to 1,268,987, the fewest since 1979. The analysis also shows a continued decline in the ratio of legal abortions per 1,000 live births.

"This apparent reversal in the rapid escalation of legal abortions is encouraging news for those who are working hard to stem the tide of abortion on demand," Baker said. "These figures, however, are another indication that abortion on demand continues to be a profound moral crisis."

The Centers for Disease Control analysis shows that in 1983, women obtaining abortions tended to be under 25 years of age, white (67.6 percent) and unmarried (78.6 percent).

The report shows the abortion ratio per 1,000 live births for teenagers in 1983 was 720, more than twice the national ratio of 349. The number of legal abortions obtained by teenagers was 280,602, representing 27 percent of all abortions.



Pictured above are the members of the Executive Missions Committee for Benton and Tippah associations at the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the Association Center to be located in Ripley. In the picture from left are Billy W. Baker, chairman; Bob Calvert; Horace Thomas; J. B. Miskelley; Jim Ray, and Edd McCafferty. Also included in the picture are Harry K. Phillips, director of missions, and Earl Huett, construction supervisor.

### Benton-Tippah begins construction of Association Center at Ripley

In 1983, Benton and Tippah associations purchased the property located at the corner of Commerce and E. First Street in Ripley on which to place their new mission center.

The executive missions committee has been asked to serve as the building committee. They have worked closely with Neron Smith, architect for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, to design a floor plan for a brick veneer building containing 2,240 square feet of heated space with a conference room that will comfortably seat 60 people. There will be adequate space for the director's office, storage room, library, and reception area for the secretary.

This committee has arranged with Earl Huett, local building contractor, to supervise construction which is scheduled to begin on June 1, 1987. The Brotherhoods in the local churches are organizing work teams through the leadership of Milton Wilbanks, associational Brotherhood director, to assist with construction.

The executive missions committee, composed of three members from each association, along with the director of missions reported unanimity in their feeling that these facilities which are more centrally located will be more convenient to most of the churches and help the director provide a more effective ministry.

**Baptist Record**

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